

# HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, May 2, 2013

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## Cup dedication

Football team pays tribute to its late manager

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## Dream maker

Steve has made 100s of wishes come true

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## Fine festival

Hockey youngsters shine during matches

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## A possible home for Heathens after talks

IT'S being kept a secret but a possible new site to build a Dudley Heathens speedway stadium has emerged after talks with the council leader and club officials.

Talks to resolve the long-running campaign reached a head when Dudley Heathens bosses brokered face-to-face talks with Dudley Councillor David Sparks.

Almost two hours of discussions took place between the parties examining the viability of different locations in the borough.

Officials are keeping tight-lipped on one possible site which was highlighted during the talks in recent days.

Heathens chairman Nigel Pearson thanked Councillor Sparks and said he hoped it would mark a milestone in the campaign.

The club called for the talks in a bid to push forward stadium prospects almost two decades since the downfall of the former Cradley side.

Both Dudley and Sandwell councils have been approached by the Heathens in the past but a deal has yet to materialise.

"I was very pleased with the meeting and he was very forthright and honest in his views," said Mr Pearson.

"We are looking at several projects at the moment and there is one site that is of particular interest."

## Boss of zoo is honoured

THE chief executive of Dudley Zoo has received an award for his outstanding contribution to arts in the Midlands.

Peter Suddock was honoured for his work as chairman of Leaps and Bounds Trust, an arts charity for disadvantaged youngsters. He was among 17 leaders from the region to be honoured at Jaguar Land Rover's Business Champions reception at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. Mr Suddock, 66, of Worfield, Shropshire, said he was delighted.

# POOR TEAMWORK IN CHILD TRAGEDY

by Louise Jew

**SOCIAL services in Dudley and Sandwell have admitted 'poor' joint working in the case of an underweight little girl who died in a cold room while her mother watched a DVD.**

The failure of the two authorities to settle their differences over who should be responsible for the protection of 18-month-old Keidey-Elliese Earp was of 'great concern' to the panel that investigated the case. The Crown Prosecution Service made a decision last July that there should be no criminal action against any member of Keidey's family following a police investigation into her death.

Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain, who last week recorded an open verdict on the little girl's death from a mystery illness, said it would be dangerous to say it was due to neglect.

Keidey's devastated mother Elizabeth Duffell, 22, said: "I would have done anything to stop my daughter's death."

Dudley and Sandwell social services, together with other agencies involved in child protection, are implementing a total of around 60 recommendations for improvement from their own reviews of the case.

And a review panel, led by social work consultant Alan Ferguson, has come up with eight overall recommendations.

Sgt Martin Hall, who is responsible for Sandwell Social Services had been monitoring Keidey's case since April 2011, when she was living at her grandmother's home in the town - but, when the family moved to Dudley, they were 'wrangling' about who should be in charge.

### Failing

There were concerns that Keidey was failing to thrive and not putting on weight.

But it was not until December 1, 2011 - two days before Keidey's death, after she had been left on a cot under a window in her cold bedroom at her home in Tansey Green Road, Pensnett - that Sandwell Council decided to launch court care proceedings.

Mr Ferguson, who carried out a 'safeguarding children board' enquiry following the death, said improvements centred around the way cases are transferred between local authorities and better liaison between their legal departments.

Health visitor Heather Chaloner, who works for the Black Country Partnership NHS Trust, told how she had made frequent visits to 18-month-old Keidey and her mother in Tansey Green Road, Pensnett from May 2011.

Mrs Chaloner said she had voiced her concerns to social services about the child's weight and a 'lack of engagement' with her mother.

● Cold - Page 2

## The Lighthouse shines again



Celebrating winning pub of the month are Barry and Jane Woodward with son Edward

A HALESOWEN pub has come back from the brink of collapse to win an award.

Management say The Lighthouse was losing around £3,000 a week while Coombs Road was closed for six months of repairs.

But they say since the road reopened customers have been pouring in and now the business is back on track.

In recognition of the turnaround, the pub's parent company, Brains, named it Pub of the Month in its in-house publication, Inn Profit magazine.

Licensee Barry Woodward, aged 58, said: "I was delighted when I got the phone call telling me we'd won. It's quite an accolade for the pub because it had been on its knees.

"About three times I thought we would

have to close. We were on the brink of collapse, but we've worked very hard and long hours to turn the place around."

Mr Woodward took over the pub with his wife Jane and sons Edward and Adam in February last year - but just two weeks later National Grid and South Staffs Water closed the road outside for utility works.

Since then the pub's interior has been repainted and the family has created a new menu to draw in customers.

Dave Glew, the pub's business development manager, said: "In all my years in the trade I have not seen anyone battle as hard as Barry to make a business work.

"He really deserves all the success and recognition he is now receiving."

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## NEWS

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# Daughter was my world, says mother

THE mother of tragic underweight child Keidey-Eliese Earp has spoken of how the little girl was 'my world'. Single mother Elizabeth Duffell, aged 22, said: "She was my little girl and I loved her to pieces. It's been portrayed that I left her in her cot to die - but I can't help it that she passed away. My little girl was my

way they 'wrangled' about who should look after 18-month-old Keidey, who died at her home in Tansey Green Road, Pensnett, on December 3, 2011. Miss Duffell told the inquest she had been watching a DVD in the next bedroom when Keidey died and had not realised what time it was.

Social services in Dudley and Sandwell have been criticised for the

way they 'wrangled' about who should look after 18-month-old Keidey, who died at her home in Tansey Green Road, Pensnett, on December 3, 2011. Miss Duffell told the inquest she had been watching a DVD in the next bedroom when Keidey died and had not realised what time it was.

Speaking after the inquest, Miss Duffell claimed it was she who initially called in social services to help

her find accommodation because she and Keidey were living at her mother's home in Sandwell and it was 'overcrowded'. "I was phoning them for help," she said.

"I'd never had social services involved before but I phoned them in April 2011. I had been made homeless," she said.

"They put me in temporary accommodation in a bed and breakfast and then I found the property in

Tansey Green Road myself. The property in Tansey Green Road had no heating but Sandwell social services said they would no longer find accommodation for me but they told me my mother's home wasn't suitable because of overcrowding," she claimed.

"I've been portrayed as such a bad person, which I'm not. I would have done anything to stop my daughter's death."

# Tragedy of little Keidey who died in cold room

AN underweight baby girl died after being left alone in a wet cot by a window for more than four hours - following months of "wrangling" by four social service teams about responsibility.

Sixty recommendations have now been drawn up by Dudley and Sandwell councils after the case of tragic 18-month-old Keidey-Eliese Earp was not picked up in time by the authorities. An inquest heard that court care proceedings by social workers, who had been monitoring her case for seven months

over concerns she was failing to thrive, was launched just two days before her death.

An expert investigating the case said court action should have been taken considerably earlier. The cause of the girl's death may never be known after a coroner recorded an open verdict, but said it was probably due to the cold conditions she was left to lie in.

Keidey's single mother, 22-year-old Elizabeth Duffell, had been watching a DVD in the next bedroom when her daughter died.

### Paramedics

She had been left in the cot but, when paramedics arrived at the house at 3pm on December 3, 2011, the child was lifeless on the floor. Miss Duffell, now of Newhall Road, Rowley Regis, told the inquest her lifestyle was chaotic when moving house.

"I didn't know if I was coming or going," she added. Miss Duffell said the child's father, Martin Earp, had given her no help in bringing her up.

Sandwell social services had been monitoring the girl since April 2011, when she had been living with her grandmother. But Keidey and her mother moved to Tansey Green Road, Pensnett, and discussions began about handing the case over to Dudley Council.

Consultant Alan Ferguson, who was commissioned to carry out an inquiry, said Dudley refused to accept responsibility unless "stable child protection plans" were in place.

His case stayed with Sandwell Council. Mr Ferguson said: "There was dissent between the two councils."

The report does, however, highlight a number of areas of learning and identifies a number of recommendations, many of which have already been implemented."

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## Artists giving town the blues



Promoter Gary Child, front, with the Trembletones outside blues festival venue Stourton Park, the home of Stourbridge Rugby Club

MUSICIANS are tuning up for Stourbridge's first-ever blues festival later this month. The event will feature 11 acts and be spread over 12 hours at Stourbridge Rugby Club's Stourton Park on May 18.

Organiser Gary Child, who came up with the idea after being challenged by a friend, said out of 300 tickets available, 197 had already been sold. He said: "Tickets are sell-

ing very well - Stourbridge has a good music scene and I think this is something many people have been waiting for."

"We are going to have a 12-hour event showcasing a range of good, local blues bands from start to finish."

Tickets are £10 and available at stourbridgebluesfestival.org or at Stourton Park on Bridgnorth Road.

# Theatre group to wait for findings

COUNCILLORS have received a crucial report analysing the future of Dudley Hippodrome - but they are keeping campaigners on tenterhooks before revealing its findings.

Members of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group submitted their own business plan to council officers on how they could raise funds to reopen the theatre.

It also detailed how the entertainment venue would earn cash including income raised by hosting top touring shows from the West End.

But the document has been scrutinised by independent assessors at Herefordshire consultants Artserve since January.

They were looking into whether the plan was financially viable allowing the campaigners to take over the Castle Hill theatre.

Dudley Council wants to bulldoze the site.

Council deputy leader Councillor Shaukat Ali said: "We have received the report and are currently discussing the findings. We will of course also be meeting with the friends group."

Friends group chairman Geoff Fitzpatrick urged the council to reveal the findings as soon as possible.

## Run aims to boost health

YOUNGSTERS have the chance to take part in a fun run event later this month to promote healthy living and keeping fit.

Pupils aged between five and 12 will run through Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Park on May 25. The Schools' Fun Run has been organised to also get families interested in running.

Separate runs will take place for those aged between five and eight, nine and 10 and 11 and 12, and are open to all, regardless of ability. Parents can reserve their child's place at [www.elmfield.com](http://www.elmfield.com).

## Cold food rescue

A COLD storage specialist came to the rescue of a Dudley secondary school which faced losing frozen food worth around £2,000. Work on The Kingswinford School's electrics meant freezers were turned off so logistics and cold storage group ACS&T came to the rescue and stored the food.

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## Fears on shortage of medics

AMBULANCE bosses have raised concerns about a shortage of paramedics in the wake of increasing demand on the service.

Crews were called out to just over 12,000 incidents in the Black Country during March, with 15,340 in Staffordshire and just over 14,000 in the West Mercia region.

Across the West Midlands, the 76,958 incidents were 5.1 per cent more than the service had expected.

Barry Thurston, West Midlands Ambulance director of service quality, said various pressures from outside the service had left it short of numbers.

He said: "There just aren't enough hours in the system for the activity we have. At the moment, if we push in one place, it bulges somewhere else. We're just desperate for more bums on seats."

Mr Thurston's comments came following a presentation by Nathan Hudson, general manager of the Birmingham division of the ambulance service, who told of the pressures faced by his colleagues.

He said staff were working too much overtime and missing some of their training.

## Inquest on woman, 40

A WOMAN with a history of solvent abuse set fire to herself while sniffing hair spray, suffering 90 per cent burns, an inquest heard.

Sharon Hill, 40, was rushed to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital on April 17 but suffered a cardio respiratory arrest due to her injuries and died.

The inquest on Miss Hill's death was opened and adjourned at Smethwick Coroners Court. Black Country coroner Mr Robin Balmain said Miss Hill, of Rutland Place, Wollaston, had a history of solvent abuse.

### Water repairs

A ROAD in Rowley Regis will be closed for a week for emergency repair work to a foul water connection. It will affect part of Queens Drive.

The work is due to take place between April 29 to May 5. Traffic will be diverted via Buckingham Road, Thorne Road and vice versa. Bollards at the junction of Queens Road/Buckingham Road will be removed.

# School gets £500,000 for major revamp



Bronwyn Hedley - delight

AN ACADEMY in Kingswinford has scooped more than £500,000 to help it transform ageing classrooms and create extra teaching space.

Work will start this summer on the project at The Kingswinford School thanks to the grant from the Education Funding Agency.

A new food technology cooker classroom will be installed along with a hi-tech science laboratory and modern new drama studio.

Headteacher Bronwyn Hedley said the staff and governors were "absolutely delighted" to receive the

cash and were raring to get the transformation under way.

"This is a historic moment for the school and we cannot wait to see work start," she said.

"These projects will update and enhance the learning environment of our students and will benefit their education and lives for many years to come."

In total, £562,000 was received from the agency after school business manager Gill White submitted an application around four months ago. The school, in Water Street,

achieved converter academy status last year, which means it draws its money from central government rather than a sponsor or local education authority.

A new science lab will be created by converting the present food technology classroom.

Staff have already started dreaming up ideas for the equipment they would like to see and are also gathering views from the pupils.

Food technology will be moved to incorporate it with the design and technology block. The new drama

studio will have the latest lighting technology and other modern features to allow the students to learn the latest theatre techniques and performance skills.

Pupils studying textiles will benefit from a completely refurbished classroom.

Meanwhile, outside the main school buildings, three new classrooms will be built in a single-storey block for English lessons, with IT equipment fitted.

The school hopes the work will be completed by March next year.

# Academy delighted at £1.6m windfall for new sports hall

AN ACADEMY in Dudley has won £1.6 million to help transform its grounds and create a modern sports hall.

Preparatory work will start within a fortnight on the project at Holly Hall Academy thanks to cash from a government funding scheme. However, plans to build an outdoor all-weather pitch have been put on hold in the meantime after staff failed to secure the additional cash needed.

Principal Graham Lloyd, who has been at the school 12 years, said staff were still celebrating the news.

"Everyone connected with the academy is thrilled by our success," he said.

"This development is something I have been trying to achieve since I came to Holly Hall."

The sports hall will contain space for four badminton courts and a full-size basketball court. Space for netball and handball courts will also be created inside.

A new fitness suite packed with gym equipment is also going to be installed alongside changing rooms. Staff hope to use the gym area in lessons teaching children about healthy living and keeping fit.

Part of the money is also going towards creating a modern dance studio with a sprung floor.

The grant came from the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund Application. Contractors are expected

on site on May 7 to begin work at the academy, off Scotts Green Close, Holly Hall. Mr Lloyd said they hope the new building will be open by the start of the spring next year.

He added: "Staff were raring to use the new facilities as many of the old buildings were in need of repair. Staff say the existing sports hall and changing rooms suffered severe water damage in recent years, forcing around £30,000 of running repairs.

"We have a tradition of sporting excellence and I have a team of dedicated PE staff who have worked very hard over many years with sub-standard facilities," he said.

Plans for the all-weather pitch near the sports hall won approval from Dudley Council late last year. But the funding application for around £500,000 failed to be approved by government officials.

Contractors are expected

## Penguin party for Pingu

THERE were celebrations at Dudley Zoo to mark the birthday of the attraction's oldest Humboldt penguin.

The penguin, named Pingu, turned 22 last week and to mark the occasion received a fishy breakfast. Zoo keepers delivered birthday cards from people who had adopted the penguin. Pingu, named after the cheeky penguin in the Bafta award-winning animation TV series, was among five endangered Humboldt penguins which started the zoo's hugely successful breeding programme back in the 1991.



Lead nurse Lynn Thompson with bank mortgage consultant Josh Watchorn, fundraiser Karen Phillips and bank manager Kulvinder Kular

## Boost for families' room at hospital

A HOSPITAL waiting room used by families of patients is being given a much-needed £3,000 facelift after staff received donations towards the improvement scheme.

New carpets have been laid, walls painted and furniture installed in the Relatives Room at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Staff members have long wanted to improve the room.

An appeal for donations was recently launched and £3,000 has been raised for the improvements to take place.

The scheme was given a major boost after receiving £1,000 from the Yorkshire Bank.

Staff hope to install facilities for making hot drinks once the work is completed.

Hospital fundraising co-ordinator Karen Phillips said it was used by families awaiting news of their loved ones.

She said: "We are so pleased this work has been carried out and want to thank everyone who has donated to the scheme."

## NEWS

### in brief

#### Leisure benefits for Armed Forces

SERVING servicemen and women will be given discounted entry to Dudley borough leisure centres in a project that is the first of its kind in the country.

Dudley Council is offering Armed Forces personnel and their loved ones half-price admission to leisure and recreation facilities. Due to its pioneering work, the borough was chosen to launch Labour's Fighting Fitter campaign.

Shadow Defence Secretary Jim Murphy visited the town's leisure centre in Wellington Road, last week to meet borough Armed Forces Champion, Councillor Dave Tyler.

#### Charity holding baby clothes sale

A CHARITY is selling off hundreds of items of baby clothing at discounted prices.

The NCT parenting charity hosts the Nearly New Sale and Baby Fair on May 18 at Thorns Leisure Centre, Stockwell Avenue, Quarry Bank, from 11am to 1pm.

Members of the NCT's Halesowen and Stourbridge branch have organised the sale. Organiser Rebecca Crichton said: "Parents can buy a wide variety of goods."

#### Ballroom dance classes at centre

A COMMUNITY centre in Brierley Hill is staging classes in ballroom and Latin American dancing.

Lessons will be held at Nine Locks Community Centre in Hill Street every Monday from 2-4pm.

Admission is £3. The lessons are being organised by Nine Locks Community Association.

For further details, call group chairman Irene Korvin on 01384 822603.

#### Summer concert at church venue

BRIERLEY Hill Choral Society will host a summer concert on May 11 at St Michael's Church, Brierley Hill, from 7.30pm. They will be joined by the Queen's Park Sinfonia orchestra.

Tickets are £10 on the door or available on 01384 830661 or 01384 390019.

#### Meeting dates

NORTON Greet tenants association will hold its general public meeting on May 13 at Gig Mill School, The Broadway, Stourbridge, at 7pm. Chapel Street and Parkes Street will hold their AGMs on May 14.

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## NEWS

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RESEARCHERS in America claim there's more to a sneeze than we imagine. An outgoing person delivers a big, noisy sneeze while a shy person holds it in, producing a stifled squeak. In this way, say the scientists, a sneeze reveals your true character. Or should that be your true catarrh?

□□□□□□□

IT WAS good viewing but let's not pretend that Broadchurch (ITV) was cleverer than it actually was. Its creator, Chris Chibnall, now reveals a trail of "little clues," including the slug that Ellie found on her carpet and squashed in the final episode. This was apparently a metaphor for an intruder in the house. Oh, really? This must be the first slug in history to go over everybody's head. As for the scene where cops allowed the murdered boy's father to the door of the police cell so that he could harangue the killer, it was plain daft.

□□□□□□□

IN AN appeal to our sense of Englishness, that portly, true-blue Tory Eric Pickles promises to restore ye ancient county names such as Westmorland, Cumberland and Huntingdonshire. The Local Government Minister thunders: "Administrative restructuring by previous governments has sought to suppress and undermine such local identities." You can almost hear the tankards clinking in Conservative clubs all over the land. All hail the old county names. God rot those who suppressed and undermined our heritage. And who were these subversive Trotskyites of yore who swept away our precious old counties? It was Ted Heath's Conservative government.

□□□□□□□

USEFUL terms for our time. "Safari round" - frantic search by doctors for patients lost in hospitals, as revealed this week by the Royal College of Nursing.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes  
every Monday to Friday in  
your Express & Star**

# Reserve walkers called to shop trolley dumpers

AROUND 20 shopping trolleys have been dumped at a Dudley beauty spot, prompting anger from councillors, who branded fly-tippers as people who should be shopped.

The trolleys were strewn around Saltwells Nature Reserve, near Netherton and Quarry Bank. Councillors have appealed to everyone using it to report any fly-tipping.

Supermarkets across the area have revealed problems previously with trolleys being taken from stores.

Ward Councillor Bryan Cotterill said park wardens had collected the latest haul of 20 trolleys from around the 247-acre reserve within the past fortnight.

He said it was wasting time and money for the council.

"There should be a lot more respect for the countryside in this area from certain people," he said.

"They are being very irresponsible to just keep dumping trolleys."

He said people should take more pride in their area after also spotting trolleys wedged on the embankments off Pedmore Road.

Councillor Cotterill urged people to back the council's campaign Love Your Community that encourages people to report fly-tipping, graffiti and dog fouling.

Dudley Council's environment boss, Councillor Tracy Wood, said: "The people who dump these trolleys have no care or respect for their communities or environment."



Nature warden Stephen Rowland with councillors Bryan Cotterill and Tracy Wood

**Gym team have target of £45,000**

CAMPAIGNERS want to open a £45,000 outdoor gym in Dudley Park, aimed at tackling obesity.

The Friends and Residents of Buffery Park is raising money for 12 pieces of equipment which it is hoped will be installed this summer.

Ssecretary Lynn Horton said: "We hope it could help with obesity, which can be a problem in this area."

"A lot of people want to get fit and go to the gym but it's very expensive. Especially when a lot of people here are out of work."

Chairman Steve Briscoe said: "They have been very successful in the neighbourhoods where they've been used at fighting obesity."

Ward councillor Shaukat Ali said: "We've been able to bring about a lot of improvement in the park and it is well-used."

The group has already been successful in getting a number of grants towards the £45,142 price tag with Mr Briscoe saying about £30,000 had been raised.

## Flood project up for award

A PROJECT to prevent sewer flooding in Dudley has been nominated for an engineering award.

The Hinsford Close project involved Severn Trent Water, Enterprise Management Services, GHA Livingstone and Carlow Precast Concrete Engineering. The final of the Institution of Civil Engineers West Midlands 2013 Awards was due to take place on May 2.

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## Anger over temporary wall repair

A RESIDENT has attacked Dudley Council for going ahead with a temporary fix to partly reopen a road after a landslip – instead of pressing forward with a full repair.

The council said it has been unable to find out who owns the wall that collapsed.

It decided to carry out a £10,000 temporary shore-up so that Red Hill could reopen in just one direction.

Mr Major Robins, aged 66, of The Heathlands, off Red Hill, complained at a meeting of Norton, Pedmore, Stourbridge East, Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Community Forum.

“It’s a council responsibility to restore the road to its full access,” he said. “Having restored it at the council’s expense they could then pass on the cost to the official owners when found.”

Assistant director of planning Sue Holmday said it was believed the bank, which collapsed on to Red Hill from the end of gardens in Margaret Drive on Christmas Eve, had many different ownerships and inquiries to establish the legal situation continued.

Pedmore and Stourbridge East Councillor Les Jones said: “We can’t just spend money and then say we may be able to get it back.”

## Society war talk

MEMBERS of Stourbridge Historical Society will be welcoming John Bourne, an expert on the First World War. He will talk about the effect of the war on his home town of Burslem, Stoke on Trent, on May 16 at 7.30pm at Stourbridge Town Hall.

# Triumphant team dedicates cup win to tragic manager



With the cup are Darren Owen's sons Joe and Luke with the team, manager Pete Thompson and coach Simon Westwood

A YOUTH football team in Stourbridge is dedicating its cup success to its late manager, who died in a freak accident midway through the season.

Father-of-two Darren Owen died aged 36 after a fall while collecting Christmas decorations from the loft of his home in Dudley in December. He had managed Stourbridge Football Club Under-11s, which has now scooped silverware in the league cup.

The side, which includes his 10-year-old son Luke, won the Stourbridge and District Youth League Under-11s competition, beating Kewford Eagles South 2-0.

At the game at The Dell Stadium a week ago last Sunday, Darren’s widow Becky handed out the winning medals to the side while his other son Joe, eight, was a ball boy.

Last Wednesday, following a league game against Halesowen Town at King Edward VI playing fields, the team met up again with Mrs Owen again for photographs to be taken.

Coach Simon Westwood said: “Darren’s death was a massive shock to everyone involved at the club.”

“It affected us all, but after the two weeks off the players came back determined to give their best and achieve something in memory of Daz.”

“The league asking Becky to award the winning medals at the game only spurred the team on and it was a great moment when we lifted the cup.”

Former assistant manager



Darren Owen – lovely man

Peter Thompson has since taken over Mr Owen as manager of the side.

The team is fifth in the league’s top division, but has games in hand and could still come top.

At last week’s game, which the team won 3-0, the players turned out in specially-made polo shirts with Mr Owen’s name on them.

Mr Westwood, 39, from Brierley Hill, said: “He was a brilliant person, a hard-working man, but most of all a lovely man – it still makes me sick to think he has gone.”

“The success of the side was down to him. It was him who laid down the foundation, me and Peter have only followed his lead.”

## NEWS

### in brief

#### Artists to show work at centre

ARTISTS and craftspeople based at the Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge, will be opening their doors to the public. The Open Studios event on May 18 and 19 will coincide with Craft and Design Month. Artists will display a wide range of creations from textiles to glass crafts to jewellery.

Centre manager Leigh White said: “There is so much talent in the Stourbridge area, and it will be great to see the public getting involved and being able for the first time to meet and talk to individual artists in their own studios.”

#### Homes plan for former pub site

A FORMER pub in Lye could be demolished and replaced with six homes. The Balds Lane Tavern, Balds Lane, was shut three years ago by Marston’s.

Now, owner Meadowdale Homes has submitted a planning application to demolish it and build six two-bedroom houses. Simon Hanson, vice-chairman of the Campaign for Real Ale’s Stourbridge branch, said he was disappointed, adding: “Any pub closing in the area is sad news.”

#### Fair at church

THERE will be a spring fair at St Andrew’s Church, Bilston Street, Sedgley, on Saturday, May 11 from 10am to noon. Stalls will include clothes, books, plants and bric-a-brac. Refreshments will be available. Proceeds will go to church funds.

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## NEWS FEATURE

## IN MY VIEW

WITH  
MARK  
ANDREWS

SO IT looks like the infamous hate preacher Abu Qatada will be with us for the foreseeable, following the Government's latest failed bid to deport him on terror charges.

While judges at the Court of Appeal have said the deportation of Qatada, described as Osama Bin Laden's right-hand man in Europe, was 'long overdue', they also ruled that the danger he posed to the public was not 'a relevant consideration' under human rights laws.

Of course it's not.

However, I feel I might have an answer. Anti-social behaviour orders have come under quite a bit of flak lately, generally dismissed as a soft option for young hooligans who wear them as a badge of honour.

However, their credibility would be restored once and for all if they could protect us from this old reprobate.

No doubt most of you would agree that Mr Qatada is generally a pretty anti-social individual, involved in a wide variety of pretty anti-social behaviour traits. You know, blinking, breathing, giving motivational talks to suicide bombers, that sort of thing.

So why not make him subject to an anti-social behaviour order prohibiting him from doing any of these things. Every time he breathes or blinks, it's five years in the slammer.

No doubt the beaks will let him off, fall for the usual sob stories about him falling in with a bad crowd - let's face it, bad crowds don't come much worse than al Qaeda - and being determined to make a fresh start. But it's got to be worth a try.

□□□□□

IT SEEMS winning a £3 million share of a lottery syndicate has not brought much happiness to former bus driver John Noakes.

Indeed John says life has been so tough for him and his family he is now planning to leave the UK, and begin a new life in, er, Cyprus.

Are you sure you've thought this one through, John?

□□□□□

NOT so long ago, the global-warming fans were warning that unless we all ditched our patio heaters and cycled to work at the lentil processing plant, then we would all be burned to a crisp during the sizzling summers, or drown as the UK became submerged. Twenty-Thousand Leagues Under The Sea.

Now they tell us we will experience a little more turbulence as we jet off on holiday in search of the sun.

It's progress of sorts, I guess.

□□□□□

DOCTOR: "I'm afraid Aynuk, you are suffering from infertility."

Aynuk: "Is that hereditary?"



Feeding time - Cameron Taylor and Jodie Scott with the giraffes



Plastered - Megan Luckins and Mariam Ajiba are nurses for the day



Tucking in - Alexandra Thomas and Laura Liptrot eating cream cakes



Roll of honour - Ben Thompson gets ready to dive into the mountain

## THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A BUSHBURY man celebrated a betting coup after winning £13,308 from a 10p stake. Steve Bonser was cheering on Wolves at Molineux when he found out the six horses he picked for the ITV Six beat all won.

RAIN, rain and more rain led to a Bank Holiday weekend washout. The region suffered 4.7 inches of rain over the three-day holiday, which followed the third wettest April since records began in 1887.

A TOTAL of 25,000 walkers put their best feet forward to raise more than £200,000 for people with mental health issues. Organisers of the BRMB Walkathon were amazed at the result, which enabled Mencap to provide a home for adults in Birmingham.

1993...

A WOLVERHAMPTON teenager ran into a growing problem in his ambition to become a mounted police officer - his size 12 feet. Paul Swallow, aged 13, from Compton could not find riding boots to fit his long but narrow feet.

THERE was massive disruption on the Severn Valley Railway at Kidderminster after a Second World War grenade was found on the track. Army bomb disposal experts blew up the device in a controlled explosion causing the railway to close for five hours.

FORMER chef Christopher Bloo became the first man to qualify as a midwife in Staffordshire. Mr Bloo, aged 26, became one of less than 100 male midwives in Britain after passing an 18-month course at the North Staffordshire College of Nursing and Midwifery.

2003...

BLACK Country twitchers were urged to stake out their back gardens to count house sparrows as part of a nationwide survey looking at the species' dramatic decline. The count was organised by the RSPB, who said bird numbers had halved in the preceding 25 years.

ROBOTS made at a Black Country factory proved a hit with movie makers after they were snapped up to star in a string of Hollywood blockbusters. Kuka Welding Systems and Robots in Halesowen supplied two robots for Tomb Raider 2 and 15 machines for the Thunderbirds movie.

RAVE punters at a Sedgley pub swallowed lemons, chillies and garlic before snogging a fresh cod in a charity endurance challenge. The tasks were lined up for drinkers at The Swan Inn to raise money for Acorns children's hospice in Walsall.

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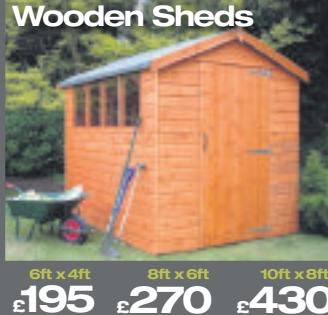
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# Do not try to fix Easter

THIS is in answer to the question about why Easter should be fixed. The origins of Easter go back to the second century fixed by the council of Nicaea.

The date is fixed by the first Sunday after the first full moon following the March Equinox.

Therefore, Easter Sunday can fall between March 22 and April 25. Easter is linked to the Jewish Passover, the last supper was the feast of the Passover. Easter is the main Christian Holy festival.

Many now have the Monday after Easter off as holiday, not the Friday, which is the

## My label is British – 100pc

OUR Prime Minister has stereotyped the whole nation by saying: "We are all Thatcherites now."

Obviously, Mr Cameron has forgotten it was members of Lady Thatcher's cabinet that forced the lady to resign. Are these backstabbers still Thatcherites?

Some have forgot that among Lady Thatcher's many misdemeanours was she signed Britain up to the Single European Act, which later on turned into the European Union.

The question is will Mr Cameron undo all the damage Lady Thatcher done to us by joining the EU in the first place and allow us to leave the EU when the Great British electorate finally gets a vote to leave and thus condemning Mr Cameron to go down in history as the greatest anti-Thatcherite in history?

I am not Thatcherite or a European, I am 100 percent British.

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L A KERRY  
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## LETTERS

### Watch out cat killers are about

I WOULD like to bring to the public's attention the problem of missing cats in the Highfield area of Colley Gate. Over the last few months three to four cats have gone missing.

I have lost nine cats over four years. Some have been rescue cats but all have been microchipped and spayed, but they have still disappeared. They don't come back injured, sick or with gun pellets in them.

So I can only assume that they have been taken or killed by some means.

Be vigilant and phone the Cats Protection League or the RSPCA if you see a cat in distress.

MISS LEIGH GREENWAY  
Highfield Crescent  
Halesowen

### Health thank you

I WISH to express my thanks to the paramedics and emergency services for their prompt and efficient action when I was taken ill recently. I would like to thank the doctors, nurses and staff in Ward C1 at Russells Hall Hospital for all the kindness and consideration shown to me during my stay there. My treatment and the food was exemplary. I could not have received better treatment anywhere.

JOYCE WOODLIDGE  
Kingswinford

### Is this double tax?

REGARDING the "bedroom tax", people living in three or four bedroom-houses are already banded higher and pay more tax than those occupying smaller houses – so are they being taxed twice? Is this legal?

M MARTIN  
Coseley

## LETTERS to the Editor

### POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

## Boston bombs show why we need CCTV

AMERICAN FBI, Boston police and the Swat and other law enforcement authorities have to be congratulated as to how fast they caught the two alleged terrorists following the marathon bombs.

But they wouldn't have done this without the CCTV cameras around the area.

These cameras have to be the best aids for the police authorities, yet in this country, around areas of Birmingham, they have had to take them down because of protests from the communities.

One has to ask why?

This situation in Boston should bring debate in this country with regard to installing more of these cameras in order to assist the police in quickly solving crime.

The critics will obviously say, "Big brother is watching you", but my thoughts are if you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to be frightened of.

I hope MPs are reading this letter and put pressure on the Coalition government to debate it in Parliament.

R J WHITEHOUSE  
Wartell Bank  
Kingswinford

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## NEWS

# Expansion at brewery complete by summer

A £200,000 scheme to build a three-story extension at Black Country brewery Holden's has been further delayed, with work now not set for completion until July or August.

Work at the brewery in Woodsetton started last October, paving the way for an increase in production from 50,000 pints to 75,000 pints a week.

The project was due to be finished last December, but this was put back until the end of March after the plans were changed from a two-storey to a three-storey development.

Now the completion date has been delayed a second time.

### Repairs

Lucie Holden - who runs the business with her brother Jonothan and sister Abi - said work was continuing.

"It has taken a little longer than we originally planned," she said.

"Our team working on the project have to carry out repairs and maintenance at other sites as well and this has helped things up.

"We are now expecting the project to be finished by July

or August. This is still acceptable within the timescales set out."

New storage tanks are being created as part of the work, including one which will hold 70,000 pints, and alongside this will be two fermenting vessels.

Bosses decided to go ahead with the extension thanks to a rise in demand for real ale, with the plans including exporting one beer - the Golden Special - to Japan.

Further building work is expected to take place at the site over the coming years with proposals for a new visitor centre and brewery development.

Other developments already completed include a new bottle store where visitors can buy merchandise and beers, and new offices.

The firm is one of the oldest in the area, having been founded in 1915.

## Meow-sic to the ears



Andy Browne, of Stoford Retail, with Peaches, and clinic director Bonnie Leibowitch, with Sophie, and front, nurses Sophie Williamson, left, with Ozzy and Gemma Ward, with Millie

A NEW veterinary surgery in Dudley has adopted a novel method of keeping dogs and cats calm before operations - by playing them relaxing music.

White Cross Vets in Regent Road, Tividale plays selected music in separate dog and cat wards to create a calming atmosphere. Tim Harrison, managing director of the family-run veterinary group, said the concept was widely used in North America. The practice is a £250,000 investment by the Yorkshire veterinary group.

It has been developed by property specialists Stoford Retail which has led a major regeneration of the site. The practice is run by experienced local vet Bonnie Leibowitch. She said: "We have been caring for pets for over 75 years and we are delighted that Tividale will be our third practice in the West Midlands."

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# Scrap metal gang acted with 'military precision'

THESE are the faces of three members of a gang behind an £81,000 metal raid in Kingswinford.

A judge said the gang had struck with "military precision" and the defence said members behaved with "insouciance".

The thieves stole 112 tons of steel from Midland Steel Sections on the Gibbons Industrial Estate, after targeting the site soon after it closed for the weekend.

Two stolen trucks, weighing 32 and 26 tons each, were employed to make five trips loaded with the stolen steel during the weekend of 26 and 27, 2011, the court heard.

Around 63 tons of the haul, valued at £34,000, was delivered to the Oldbury Metal Recycling plant run by Lee Stanley in Parsonage Street, Oldbury, where it was discovered hidden under scrap metal by police after a tip-off a couple of days after the raid. He had paid £12,000 for it, the court was told.

## Confident

A further 47 tons of the stolen steel worth £34,000 was found in Manchester and traced back to EMR, Wolverhampton, which had bought it from Jarvis Metals, a scrap yard run by Joe Jarvis and his family in Ennerdale Road, Shrewsbury, where it had been dropped off by the gang. He admitted making £1,000 profit when he sold it four days later.

Mr Gareth Morley, defending, said: "They must have been pretty confident that they were not going to be disturbed. They behaved with insouciance, coming and going, as they pleased over a 36-hour period."

Paul Hawkins, aged 41 from Fell Meadow Way, Sedgley, who was the "go between" for the gang, was jailed for four years. Jamie Anslow, aged 31, of Newnham Bridge, Tenbury Wells, got



Lee Stanley, aged 38



Jamie Anslow, aged 31



Paul Hawkins, aged 41



Part of the stolen metal. The raid appeared to be an inside job, the court heard

30 months behind bars. Both were convicted of conspiracy to burgle by a jury after a trial. Nicholas Tawse, 45, from Newark, Notts, was imprisoned for 38 months after admitting the same offence.

Lee Stanley, 38, of Skidmore Road, Coseley who pleaded guilty to two charges of handling stolen goods was jailed for two years, while Joe Jarvis, 67, from Yockleton, Shrewsbury, received a two-year prison sentence suspended for two years with £1500 costs after being convicted by the jury of one offence of handling. Sonny

Smith, 44, from Newark, was given a 32-month jail term at an earlier hearing after admitting burglary.

Jonathan Bates, 24, from Beddows Avenue, Coseley, who was convicted by the jury of conspiracy to burgle, will be sentenced this month.

Judge Michael Dudley told those he dealt with last week: "This was a highly sophisticated and planned burglary carried out with military precision."

"It is crystal clear that an insider was involved but the only insider prosecuted was cleared by the jury."

## FORCES SUPPORT MAKES A LASTING IMPRESSION

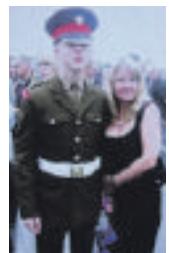
Heres Jacqui's Story in her own words showing that local charity Forces Support really does make a lasting difference.

### We received this letter from Jacqui in December 2011:

My name is Jacqui Janes, I'm the Mother of Gdsn Jamie Janes who died on route to hospital in Afghanistan on the 5th October 2009 and I live in Hove. Jamie was 20 yrs old, he isn't just my youngest son, he's my best friend. Since Jamie died, I haven't worked and I'm being treated for PTSD. When Jamie died, I changed the upstairs of my house because I tried to take my own life. Due to being on the sick I can't afford to re-do the downstairs, which Jamie decorated in the summer of 2009. I have a half finished kitchen i.e. tiles and work tops. Everything seems to be going wrong. To be honest I haven't wanted to change the downstairs because I don't want Jamie to think I'm forgetting him, I know I can't live like this anymore. Please help me. Yours Sincerely, Jacqui Janes

### Here's what Jacqui had to say the day after we finished the work, January 2012:

"Good morning world. It was so nice going down stairs this morning to everything looking lovely. This house is looking like a home again; I really can't thank Bill McCance and his team from Forces Support enough. I love it! You have no have a half finished kitchen i.e. tiles and work tops. Everything seems to be going wrong. To be honest I haven't wanted to change the downstairs because I don't want Jamie to think I'm forgetting him, I know I can't live like this anymore. Please help me. Yours Sincerely, Jacqui Janes



idea what a difference you have all made to my life. For the first time in 2 years and 4 months, I really wanted to get myself out of bed this morning xxx"

### We received this 1 year on in January 2013:

"Thank you for everything you all did for me Bill, you gave me some control back and I have since moved into my Daughters flat and she and my 3 Grandchildren live in the house. Paris my Granddaughter not only has her own bedroom, but they have a safe garden to enjoy. They have never had a garden before. They have what they call Uncle Jamie's corner, which is helping them with the grieving process. You didn't just help me, everything you did is now helping 3 children who miss their Uncle very much - so thank you just doesn't seem enough xx"

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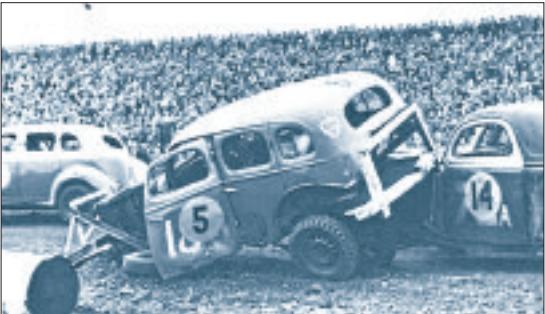
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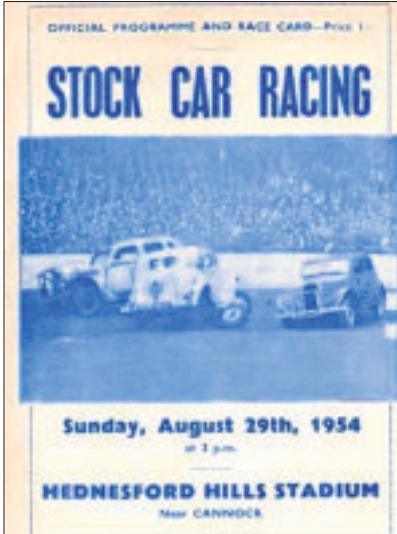
Crowds gather to watch the stock cars at the newly prepared track. Picture by Conrad Roe courtesy of David Kipling of www.oldstox.com



Crashes weren't unknown and were often the reason that crowds turned up. Picture by Conrad Roe courtesy of David Kipling of www.oldstox.com



Bulldozers prepare the bottom of what was Scott House Reservoir. Picture by Conrad Roe courtesy of David Kipling of www.oldstox.com



A programme courtesy of David Kipling www.oldstox.com

## Six decades of thrills and spills at raceway

by Tom Mason

THE smell of petrol and the sound of finely tuned engines have rung out at Hedgesford Hills Raceway for 60 years.

During that time, thousands have watched racers go head-to-head in a show of burning rubber and crunching steel.

The sport of stock car racing really took off in the 1950s and more and more tracks began to spring up around the country as its popularity grew.

New locations for tracks were always being sought and in 1952 Claude Roe decided to use the disused Scott House Reservoir as a racetrack.

The reservoir which had been empty of water for more than 40 years, was quickly pegged out and

stands erected around its outer edge. With racers flying around the shale track in modified saloon cars the racing would often get quite messy with crashes and spills.

During the next few years, as the track's popularity grew, Claude began to host other events there including live acts such as chart-topper Ruby Murray.

But its popularity began to decline as race fans went to better established tracks.

However it was at this point that legendary racer Bill Morris stepped in to give the track its second life. Left without a track following the closure of Tamworth raceway Bill could see the potential in Hedgesford and approached the new owners Cannock Chase Council to

see if he could buy it. Building work at the track began in the winter of 1961 and was completed in the summer the following year. By June 16, the cars were lining up on the track for the first race as part of the F1 stock car series.

In the following year Bill introduced hot rod to the UK crowds which was based loosely on America's NASCAR series.

Highly modified versions of everyday saloon cars took to the newly re-surfaced track flying round at incredible speeds. This proved very popular and the track really took off.

Hedgesford would continue to rise in popularity during the 60s and 70s and in later years Bill passed the reins over to his son Martin and Philip Bond who set up Incarace which runs the track today.



Early stands that only stood in certain section of the tracks. Picture by Conrad Roe courtesy of David Kipling of www.oldstox.com



The reservoir soon after it was discovered as an ideal track location. Conrad Roe courtesy of David Kipling of www.oldstox.com

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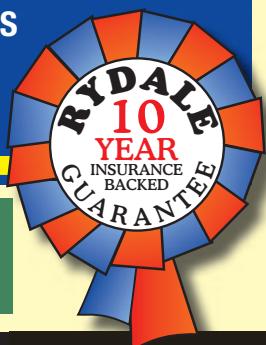
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## NEWS

# Protection is boosted for historic glass making site

A FORMER factory in the heart of the glass-making quarter in Stourbridge has been granted extra protection by heritage chiefs to prevent it from being demolished.

They say Platts Glassworks has an important place in the Black Country's heritage.

Developers had hoped to bulldoze the buildings in Platts Road, Amblecote, last October.

But councillors voted in favour of granting a temporary order to halt demolition plans while an assessment of the buildings took place after being informed of the proposals.

The order has now been made permanent by cabinet member for regeneration Shaukat Ali.

It means any developers wanting to demolish the buildings will need to submit a full planning application to the council.

Councillor Ali said it would mean the real implications of the demolition could be assessed properly.

"It also allows the views of others to be taken into account before any formal

decisions are taken," he added.

But the order does not mean that the site can not be developed in the future.

Under previous rules, the council just needed to be notified if the buildings were going to be demolished.

They would only be able to make a comment on the way it was done to ensure public safety.

The 22-acre site was first used for glassmaking in 1704. Platts Glassworks was run by Joshua Henley III and was specifically designed to produce bottles.

In 1836 it was sold to Thomas Webb and some of the buildings were rebuilt.

In the 1920s, acid etching was pioneered on the site by F Williams & Company.

They continued to be used for glassmaking until the late 1960s when some of the premises was demolished.

Spray misty for me



Keeper Sam Grove sprays Trigger the rhinoceros iguana

Trigger the rhinoceros iguana cannot get enough of shower time at Dudley Zoo. When keepers mist his quarters in the Reptile House with water for humidity he makes sure he gets covered with the cool spray.

Section leader Pat Stevens said: "Trigger loves the spray and rises up so he gets covered all over - he even tries to grab the water bottle from our hands."

The species, which is native to Cuba and the Dominican Republic, is classed as vulnerable due to habitat destruction and invasive species.

Their name derives from a horn-like growth on their snout, which resembles a rhino horn.

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PREMIER

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# Runners pound the marathon for pounds



Andy Page with his children Holly and Edward, who helped him raise cash for Starlight Children's Foundation, after he had completed the London Marathon

## Fresh talks over taxi colour rule

TAXI drivers will hold fresh talks with council officials in Dudley in a bid to end a dispute over colours of private hire vehicles in the borough. Around 100 taxis brought the town to a standstill as they staged a go-slow drive past Dudley Council House recently.

They were battling against Dudley Council's policy of only allowing white coloured private hire taxis to be used by firms in the borough.

The protest drew anger from some councillors who said the policy was in place to allow people to safely identify fully-licensed private taxis.

But members of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association argue that white cars are more expensive because of their popularity.

They say members have resorted to respins on some car in order to comply costing hundreds of pounds more.

These costs are added to already high insurance premiums and fuel prices, group members claim. More

by Andrew Turton

than 1,000 people signed a petition rallying for a second colour.

The association has also argued that customers were used to seeing both white and silver private hire vehicles due to neighbouring boroughs having different colours.

However, they lost a vote of Dudley Council's taxi committee members last month and are now threatening legal action.

Taxi association chairman Shaz Saleem today said the group will talk again with the council to "find a suitable resolution".

Mr Saleem apologised for the disruption caused by the protest but said members wanted to get their views across.

**Car enthusiast's crash death ruled accidental**

A PENSIONER died when his car crashed into a tree in foggy conditions near his home, an inquest heard.

Philip Luscott-Evans, aged 78, who was known by his middle name Maurice, died on January 10 after he lost control of his car on the A451 Stourbridge to Kidderminster road, opposite the Park Gate pub. It is believed the retired advertising consultant misjudged the junction, minutes from his home near Kidderminster, due to fog on the night.

The crash happened at around 12.40am as Mr Luscott-Evans, who lived in Hurcott Road, Hurcott, was driving his red Vauxhall Agila. The car collided with a tree off the carriageway and he was pronounced dead at the scene.

**Multiple**

Pc Graham Powell, a collision investigator, said there were no defects in the road, while vehicle examiner Robert Beals said the car had no problems.

A toxicology report showed widower Mr Luscott-Evans had no alcohol or drugs in his system. A post-mortem by Dr Paul Geddy confirmed he had suffered no medical emergencies before the collision.

Worcestershire Coroner Geraint Williams recorded a verdict of accidental death at an inquest in Stourport on Friday. He said the cause of death was multiple injuries.

Mr Luscott-Evans was vintage car enthusiast and had a

**RUNNERS from across Dudley are celebrating after completing the London Marathon just days after the tragedy that rocked Boston.**

Helen Small, aged 41 was one of them to complete the 26.2 miles, finishing in 4hrs 55 mins.

The special needs teacher from Wordsley had trained hard for the marathon, fitting her running practice in between her busy schedule as a fitness instructor and volunteer at Kewford Eagles Football club.

Lynn Boleyn, a charity trustee of the club, said "Kewford are very proud of Helen and we would like to congratulate her on finishing the marathon and raising much needed funds for two

very worthwhile causes." Helen has already raised more than £120 for NSPCC and Action Heart through the website [www.virginmoneygiving.com/HelenSmall](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/HelenSmall).

She said: "It was a fantastic experience and I was excited to run the marathon. The support from the spectators was amazing, there wasn't a single gap in the crowd."

**Great**

Andy Page a sales manager from Dudley, ditched his work suit for his running gear to complete in support of Starlight Children's Foundation, a charity that fulfils the wishes of seriously ill children.

The 42-year-old father of two, managed to finish in 4hrs 29mins. He

said: "It was a great day for me as it was my first marathon. The crowds and the atmosphere were brilliant."

He added that he did not have any worries prior to the marathon other than not finishing, despite the attacks in Boston carried out days before.

"Following the events of the week before I was more determined than ever to do it," he said.

Just days before heading of Andy's two young children Holly and Edward helped their dad raise money with a special non-uniform day at Russell Hall Schoo, Overfield Road.

So far Andy has raised £921.20 towards his target of £1,300. To help him raise more visit [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Pagey](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Pagey) or call Starlight directly on 020 7262 2881.



**Bar set for a Locke-in**

**REALITY TV stars Dan Osbourne and James Locke, who found fame on ITV2's The Only Way is Essex, will meet fans and pose for photographs at a Kidderminster nightclub on Saturday.**

They are the latest celebrities to appear at Carters Bar, Oxford Street, which has already seen Britain's Got Talent finalists Stavros Flatley and Georgie Shore's Gary Beadle, visit.

Owner Mark Carter said he was expecting a full house. "Last month we had Hollyoaks star Rob Norbury, who played Riley in the popular soap, and the event was a huge success," he said.



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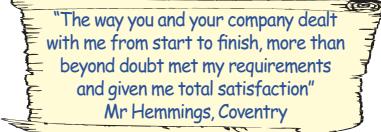
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# Family call for crossing

**THE GRIEF-STRICKEN family of 53-year-old taxman Chris Clarke has called for a pedestrian crossing to be installed on the busy main road where he was killed.**

Mr Clarke had crossed Pedmore Road in Brierley Hill almost every day for the last 16 years as he walked more than a mile to work at HM Revenue & Customs at The Waterfront, next to the Merry Hill shopping centre.

But, last Friday he was hit by a car and suffered fatal head injuries, leaving his widow Doretta, daughter Rebecca and son David heartbroken.

Mrs Clarke, aged 51, of Lantern Road, Dudley Wood, Netherton, said: "I often used to walk to work with him

because I'm a cleaner at Debenhams in Merry Hill I wasn't on the 7am shift on Friday so wasn't with him.

"There are hundreds of people who cross that road every day from the nearby housing estate but the only crossing is at the top of Merry Hill lights, at the Quarry Bank end."

## Lights

"There's no crossing at the bottom end where he had to go over the road, which is several hundred yards away from the top lights. There should be a crossing somewhere along there."

Mr Clarke was looking forward to the birth of his first grandchild – and to a day out with his daughter at Sandown Park races the day after he died.

Rebecca Clarke, aged 28, of Reddall Hill Road, Cradley Heath, who

also worked with her dad as an HMRC officer, said: "He loved horse racing and a pint of beer at Ma Pardoe's in Netherton. He was really looking forward to going to Sandown with me – he'd written on his computer the time we had to set out and the postcode to get there."

Miss Clarke told how police arrived at her home on Friday at 8.50am to give her the news of his death.

"I was just about to go into work when the police came. I went with them to tell Mum what had happened," she added. It's a big shock – it's not like he'd been ill. He was very fit and did so much walking, you had to run to keep up with him."

Mr Clarke, who used to play bowls for Old Hill British Legion and The Woodman pub in Netherton.

# Officers round up horses seen loose on busy road

POLICE in Dudley had to round up three horses seen roaming free on a busy road.

The horses were first seen near to Russells Hall Hospital just after 6am on Monday before making their way along Pensnett High Street.

There were concerns the horses would cause havoc for motorists.

Reports were posted on social networking site Twitter to warn drivers of the animals as they made their way along the route at around 7am.

Police rounded up the horses and kept them on a patch of ground adjacent to homes along Pensnett High Street.

An officer remained at the scene to keep an eye on the horses. A horse bailiff was called to pick up the animals from the

ground, between the junctions of The Plantation and Corbys Hall Lane, and take them to somewhere safe.

The animals were not believed to have caused any significant traffic problems.

Horses roaming on roads around Dudley have been a problem for many years and the area around Russells Hall Hospital is a hotspot.

Recent figures revealed Dudley Council has spent around £150,000 rounding up the stray horses over the past two years.

Officials from Dudley Council say they are committed to tackling the problem and are working with the RSPCA and police.

Further talks are also being planned to discuss how to improve the welfare of strays seen grazing around the borough.

# Volunteers pampered

Volunteers at Age UK Dudley were treated to a spa day by a local hotel as a thank-you for their work.

The Copthorne Hotel's Le Club and Imagine Spa at Merry Hill put on the day as a reward to volunteers for their time and effort.

A total of 25 volunteers, working with Age UK's Springboard, Good Neighbour, Foot Care, administration, Daybreak and Leap Over 50 projects, took up the offer and were pampered.

Rene Evans, volunteer development manager from Age UK Dudley said: "All our wonderful volunteers really deserved this."

## Taxi firm wins first of awards



Dudley Mayor Councillor Melvin Mottram presents Amjad Hussain with the award

MORE than 300 nominations were received for a new award scheme honouring taxi firms in Dudley.

Residents gave their views on the cleanliness, helpfulness and reliability of different hackney carriage and private hire firms.

Castle Cars, based at Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, won the inaugural taxi base of the year award from Dudley Council.

The decision on the winner was taken by the council's taxis committee which selected Castle Cars after it received 66 nominations.

## Disruption vow as as £4m works start

### Music night for church

A £4million project to replace 13 miles of ageing gas pipes in the Dudley borough is getting under way.

National Grid will be carrying out work in Kingswinford, Lye and Wollaston during the next 12 months.

Worn-out metal pipes are being replaced with new plastic ones in mostly residential streets.

Bosses have pledged to keep disruption to a minimum and said they would ensure streets and driveways remained accessible during the works.

An exact timescale for the programme of work has not yet been released by National Grid.

Bosses say that, once in the ground, the new pipes will last at least 80 years and will need little or no maintenance. During the next 12 months, National Grid will be renewing more than 200 miles of gas mains across the West Midlands at a cost of £60m.

A NIGHT of choral music led by a male voice choir will be taking place at a church in Dudley.

The Gentlemen Songsters from Kingswinford, will perform at St Mark's Church, in Pensnett, on May 18, at 7.30pm.

The church, known affectionately as the Cathedral of the Black Country, will also feature Year 5 and 6 pupils from St Mark's CE Primary School choir.

Tickets cost £5 with light refreshments served at the interval.



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## NEWS

## Invite to data firm as figures disputed

COUNCIL bosses have invited officials who ranked Dudley top of the table for empty shops for a fact-finding visit after claiming the ratings are inaccurate.

They have written to the Local Data Company asking their statisticians to come and re-evaluate their findings.

The company said 32.4 per cent of shops were empty in Dudley town centre in its latest report – the highest number for similar sized towns in the country. But council leaders were dismayed, saying the rating was actually around 18 per cent, based on its own surveys.

They claim the firm, which analyses retail statistics use 'outdated boundaries and flawed methodology' to produce their reports.

Deputy council leader, Councillor Shaukat Ali, who is also the borough's regeneration chief, said: "We don't want to have one vacant unit in any of our towns and we are working hard to support existing businesses and to attract new ones into our towns."

"However, the inaccurate figures that make big headlines are not doing anyone any favours at all."

He added: "We hope they can come and work with our town centre officers to see what we are doing and to re-evaluate their boundaries and methodology in order to produce more accurate findings in the future."

The data company was unavailable for comment.

# Police given new powers on booze to combat problems

**POLICE** have been granted new powers to seize alcohol and ban drinking in the streets around Quarry Bank to stamp out booze-fuelled crimes and anti-social behaviour.

Residents and traders raised concerns with police about people drinking around the town centre and demanded rules be brought into curb boozing near shops and homes.

■ **by Andrew Turton**

street drinking," he said.

"We have worked closely with Dudley Council to obtain this on-street drinking ban with overwhelming support from local businesses and public houses."

The idea was put out to public consultation in December and received overwhelming support with 82 of 84 responses backing the plan. There are already such zones in Halesowen, Stourbridge, Dudley, Sedgley, Coseley, Woodsetton and Upper Gornal.

Dudley Council's licensing committee chairman, Councillor Hilary Bills, added: "The council has received applications for alcohol bans for many different areas across the borough in recent years. The council takes these police applications very seriously."

### Consuming

Under the order, police officers and police community support officers can ask anyone believed to be consuming alcohol leading to anti-social behaviour to stop drinking and issue a £50 fixed-penalty notice.

Neighbourhood Sgt Duncan Rudge, of West Midlands Police, said the force had heeded concerns from residents wanting urgent action on the issue.

"Local businesses and residents have been telling us that they are unhappy with

### A new venue for forum

DUDLEY'S Forum of Older People will try a new venue for its next meeting. The event, on May 20 at 1.30pm, will be at Insight House, Pearson Street, Brierley Hill.

There will be a talk about the work of the Black Country Food Bank, new Quality of Life standards in Dudley and the Home Instead care agency. Membership is open to over 50s living in Dudley borough.



Clockwise from the front, Sinead Scott from West Bromwich Albion FC, Hannah Knowles from Goals Football Centre, Kerys Harrop from Birmingham City FC and Robyn Hingley from Lye Town at the Goals Football Centre in Rowley Regis

## Women who have set goals

WOMEN'S football could start up at a five-a-side centre after interest was kicked off by an England international footballer.

Birmingham and England defender Kerys Harrop is urging women in Sandwell to join a team when the women's league begins at Goals Dudley in Cakemore Road, Rowley Regis.

Harrop was joined at the centre by Sinead Scott from West Bromwich Albion and Robyn Hingley from Lye Town.

The visit was part of a move by Goals to bring in women's football at every one of its 42 centres across the country.

Hannah Knowles, spokeswoman for the Dudley centre, said: "We're putting the idea out there, seeing how much interest we can get and if there is enough we will start a league."

"Goals is a competitive sport which is a great way for people to get fit and meet new people."

The centre will hold an open day for women's football on May 20.

## NEWS

### in brief

New meals being tried at hospital

PATIENT meals at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital are being revamped following complaints.

Staff have been trialling a new system aimed at providing improved choice and quality. Meals are brought in from outside and cooked on the wards under a programme called Simplicity.

Patients have been asked for their views and their feedback will be used to make a final decision.

The 10 participants shared their experience.

### Lions calling for plant volunteers

LIONS clubs across the region have combined to offer plant-lovers the chance to place their orders for their blooms.

The Plant Sale Project is being run by Burntwood, Walsall and Kingswinford & Stourbridge branches.

They have combined to distribute 20,000 booklets on May 18 but need volunteers to help pick, check and pack orders. A website, [www.lionsplantsale.co.uk](http://www.lionsplantsale.co.uk) has been set up for customers. At least 80 volunteers are needed. Call John Wallage on 07968 297111 or email [john.wallage239@btinternet.com](mailto:john.wallage239@btinternet.com).

### Plans approved

CONTROVERSIAL plans to convert a Stourbridge school into an academy have been approved by governors despite protests from campaigners. Union members and teachers formed picket lines outside Redhill School, Junction Road. But now the school will be converted.

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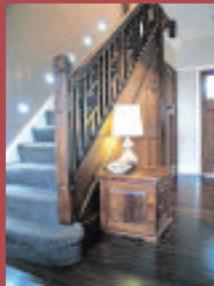
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# Engineering firm using languages to go worldwide

A HALESOWEN engineering company has launched new foreign language websites to help it win more work in the Far East, Russia and South America. The so-called BRIC countries – Brazil, Russia, India and China – are the world's fastest growing big economies and have become a big target for UK manufacturers looking to win export orders.

Thompson, which employs around 90 at its base in Hereward Rise, has launched web sites in Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish and French and there are plans to develop a Russian version later this year.

The company's sales director, Nick Edge, said: "Thompson recognises that potential customers are more likely to buy equipment if information is available in their own language. I'm confident these new websites will further enhance Thompson's visibility in key emerging markets like Brazil." The company makes machines that use the heat from friction to weld components.

## Forum for the mature

THE next meeting of the Forum of Older People in Dudley will take place on May 20.

New members are welcome to join the session at Insight House, Pearson Street, Brierley Hill which starts with refreshments at 1.30pm and the meeting will begin at 2pm.

Membership is open to anyone over 50 living in Dudley borough and visitors are always welcome.

Details are available by contacting Age UK Dudley on 01384 354 508.

# Trader with £100,000 assets claimed benefits

AN INTERNET trader from Halesowen claimed more £26,000 in benefits despite having savings of £100,000 in the bank and an income from his online deals, a court heard.

Anthony Glidewell received £26,138 in Jobseekers Allowance, council tax benefit, carers allowance and income support.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week his original application for Jobseekers Allowance in 2005 had been legitimate but later reclaims had not been.

He had traded in goods over ebay during the period – earning £9,747 in 2008, £18,885 in 2009, £19,865 in 2010 and £7,894 in 2011.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said investigations had also uncovered savings of £100,000 in a Birmingham Midshires account.

Glidewell, aged 46, of Bromsgrove Road, pleaded guilty at a previous hearing to four charges of failing to promptly

notify a change in circumstances. The court heard the overpayments had been repaid, meaning there would be no confiscation proceedings.

Glidewell was sentenced to a six-month community order with a supervision requirement.

Mr Searle said: "Investigations revealed Glidewell had an income from buying and selling goods on ebay. He also had savings in bank accounts."

### Notified

Mr Andrew Hopes, defending, said: "He accepts he should have notified the necessary authorities about the income.

"Originally he believed, as he was not working more than 16 hours a week trading on the internet, it would not affect his benefit."

"He is deeply regretful about the situation he has put himself and others in. "He has cared for his mother since he was a teenager, and she has been very worried about what the outcome of this hearing will be."

## Church campaigners looking for helpers

A GROUP fighting to reopen a Dudley church is appealing for volunteers to lend a hand clearing the grounds.

The St John's Preservation Group is looking for people to help with work at St John's Church in Kates Hill. It will involve cutting back overgrown weeds and clearing rubbish.

Chairman Deb Brownlee said: "Regular visitors will know the grounds have been transformed and become ever more beautiful, and more families have returned to tend graves year on year. During the winter the main job is the regular litter picking and we do that on an almost daily basis – special thanks go to our committee member Tony Timmins who carries out that task."

"The grass and weed growth is now starting to come through very fast and we are now resuming the summer maintenance. Weather permitting, we will be now be working on the grounds every Sunday from 2pm to 5pm."

To help, contact Deb Brownlee on savestjohnschurch@hotmail.co.uk

Calling for entrants to register for Cobra run

PREPARATIONS for a 10k road race and fun run around the countryside near Halesowen are already under way.

The annual Cobra Classic is taking place on May 19 starting from the grounds of Old Halesoniens Rugby Club in Wassel Grove, near Hagley.

The race features a 3.5km fun run alongside the main event organised by Cobra Running and Triathlon Club.

Club chairman, Steve Fletcher, said: "The course is undulating, with some lovely country views and a short off-road section. This is one of the attractions, along with Cobra's legendary warm welcome."

Runners can register on the day but are advised to do so in advance at [www.cobrarc.co.uk](http://www.cobrarc.co.uk).

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**Monday 6th May** WESTON (BANK HOLIDAY) Sand, sea & pier (Family Saver £55) £18, £16, £13  
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Sir Bruce Keogh has been tasked with reviewing the quality of care and treatment in 14 NHS trusts and foundation trusts across the country - one of which is The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust. A core principle of the review is patient and public participation. Patients, the public and staff will play an important role in informing the review's findings by sharing their views and experiences.

### AS PART OF THE REVIEW AN INDEPENDENT PANEL WILL BE HOLDING A LISTENING SURGERY.

Your local surgery will be held at Russells Hall Hospital, Pensnett Road, Dudley DY1 2HQ in the Clinical Education Centre First Floor, from 6pm on Tuesday 7th May 2013. Parking will be available on site.

### WHAT WILL THIS EVENT INCLUDE?

You'll have a chance to share and discuss your experiences with the review panel, fellow patients and other members of the community in a public forum.

### WHAT IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE EVENT?

We still want to hear your views. For details on how to share your feedback, and for more information about the Keogh Mortality Review and information on alternative ways in which you can contribute, visit the NHS Choices website at <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/bruce-keogh-review/Pages/Overview.aspx>

For further information, or to book your place, contact the Communications team on (01384) 561111 extension 1419 or email [communications@dgh.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@dgh.nhs.uk)

## NEWS

# Top chippy is frying high with award



Top quality – from left, Christopher Preece, Antony Akathiotis, MP Margot James, Mayor Melvyn Mottram, Michelle Mottram, and Davina Butcher celebrate the award given to Merchants fish and chips shop

A POPULAR chippy in Stourbridge has joined the fish-frying elite by winning a top quality award.

Merchants in Worcester Street is one of only handful in the region to receive the Fish and Chip Quality Award.

Owner Antony Akathiotis, aged 30,

who lives in Halesowen, described it as a "great achievement". He applied for the award on behalf of the shop, one of three he owns. "An assessor came around and spent about four or five hours looking at everything we do. They looked at the shop's food and its hygiene and health and safety," he said. Mr Akathiotis added: "There are a lot of great chip shops in Stourbridge so to get the award is fantastic." Mr Akathiotis and the shop's staff were presented with their certificate by Stourbridge MP Margot James and Dudley Mayor Melvyn Mottram.

# Scouts appeal on repairs

**SCOUTS** have launched an appeal for support to secure funding to help make vital repairs to their headquarters in Stourbridge.

Urgent work is needed on the roof and emergency lighting at the home of Stourbridge and District Scout Council. More than 700 scouts and their leaders use the base, off South Road, Norton, alongside members of the Girl Guides.

They managed to secure a grant of £5,000 towards the £9,000 cost for new chairs and tables from councillors on the Stourbridge area community forum. But they are now asking for an

additional £4,850 from a trust established by philanthropist Ernest Stevens for the benefit of community projects in Stourbridge.

Scout district commissioner, the Rev Alan Williams, said the cash would be a welcome boost. "It would be good if we could get the money because it will help us in the future," he said.

### Activities

"We help to give children a place to go and also we try to remain a part of the community. It would also mean that we would be able to use more of our funds to pay for activities."

The Alderman Tyre headquarters, near the Swan Pool Park, is the administration base for the districts' seven

main groups. But some 55 members of the explorer scouts group, aged between 14 and 18, rely on the availability of the main hall to hold their meetings.

The building was constructed in the 1960s but it is believed that little major repair work has been done since that time.

Mr Williams, who is vicar at Holy Trinity Church, in Amblecote, added: "The interest in scouting has increased in recent years. Employers do recognise the scouts' achievements which show people their skills and work in the community."

"We have local leaders that work very hard to put on activities for our scouts."

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## CLUB NEWS

# Talk was on silk painting Flower group blooms with a spring display

## K'FORD LADIES SOCIAL CIRCLE

ACTING chairman Audrey Phipps welcomed members to the meeting at the Royal British Legion. There were new members, a visitor and guest speaker Clive Garner.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and The Dudley Cancer Support Group sent thank you letters for donations received, while a letter was also received from Edna Summers for the card and flowers she had received during her recent illness.

An update on the forthcoming trip to Moreton-in-the-Marsh was given. Chris Groves will organise a luncheon later in the year.

Val Thacker agreed to run the sales table provisionally for the next two meetings asking members to be more supportive as any money collected was for the benefit of the group.

Mr Garner shared his enthusiasm for the hobby he has enjoyed for 18 years – painting on silk. As he painted he told the group of the history of silk, explained various techniques used and described the tools of his art. These included paints and brushes and also, aids to drying such as a hairdryer, a microwave and a steamer.

His talk was funny, informative and interesting and he had several very pretty, unusual, hand-made items for sale. Iris Hemfrey gave the vote of thanks.

Linda Taylor and May Raven won the raffle.



Sedgley Morning TWG's floral arts group meets for its spring arrangement

## SELDLEY MORNING TWG

AFTER the business of the AGM, where the committee agreed to stand for a further year, a charity morning was held.

Members took part in fundraising for the Eye Appeal for ovarian cancer by buying refreshments and raffle tickets for a tea cosy which had been made to look like a sheep by the daughter of one of the members. The charity morning raised a total of £130.

During the April meeting, a competition was held to design a name badge.

The floral arts group made lovely spring arrangements using daffodils – a really cheerful sight. At the next meeting the

arrangement will be "orchids in a hurry". Maureen and John Harper gave an interesting quiz accompanied by slides and music. They showed many interesting villages, buildings, churches and grand houses from across the West Midlands, Worcestershire and Herefordshire. The task was to guess where they all were.

Members enjoyed a recent visit to the Grand Theatre to see Cats. The Bowls Group starts its new season on May 8.

## Fakes, fraud and forgers

CHAIRMAN Hazel Smith presided over the meeting at Grange Court on April 2.

Secretary Jean Williams read the minutes of the last meeting, which were accepted and signed.

She said the guild would be entering two teams into the Federation annual quiz

## GRANGE 'E' TWG

on June 3. Marlene O'Hanlon announced she would be starting a luncheon club.

Guest speaker Graham Sutherland gave an interesting talk on fakes, fraud and forgers. A collection of loose copper totalling £35 was donated to Lye and Wollescote disabled club.

Gill Attwood announced the birthday lunch would be held at the Vine Inn, Cleint, on June 25. The guild is recruiting new members. Call Jean on 01384 832439.

His talk was funny, informative and interesting and he had several very pretty, unusual, hand-made items for sale. Iris Hemfrey gave the vote of thanks.

Linda Taylor and May Raven won the raffle.

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## NEWS

# Archaeologists dig into past of cave house tiles

RARE clay tiles dating back to at least the late 1800s have been discovered in a restored cave dwelling in Kinver.

As workers began to lay new flooring in the pantry at a house, known as Martindale Caves, their shovels hit something solid.

After further investigation at the National Trust site, they unearthed around 20 original quarry tiles.

Archaeologists and conservation experts are now being drafted in to examine the brown tiles, which each measure 10in by 10in.

Custodian of the row of sandstone hillside rock houses Mike Parker said he was delighted by the discovery.

He added: "We were hoping to lay some new quarry tiles, the discovery of the original ones under a thick layer of soil was completely unexpected and so much better."

## Surge

"The National Trust will be consulting archaeologists and conservation experts to ensure that original floor tiles are properly looked after, and to discuss the potential for further exploration."

"The tiles remain in-situ for visitors to see in the pantry of the Martindale Caves. They were uncovered by Gavin O'Farrell and Andy Booton in what must have been a very unexpected day's work," he said.

The attraction is enjoying a surge in visitors following the opening of the house, the second to be restored at the site.

It underwent a £10,000 transformation to return it to the way it would have been in the 1930s.

Staff and volunteers said the dwelling has proven popular with visitors. The caves attracted around 8,500 visitors between March and May last year. They are always on the look out



Visitor manager Mike Parker and volunteer Peter Hodges at the site

for new volunteers to lend a hand and show visitors around.

Up to 11 families lived in the cave homes, which date back to the 18th century, and it is believed they came about in response to a housing shortage for employees of the Hyde Iron Works.

Three levels of homes were constructed in the rock, each with a bedroom and a separate living area. After the last two families moved out in

the 1950s the buildings fell into disrepair.

There is a team of 50 helpers who work in the tea room and as guides while the houses are open to the public on four days a week from March to the end of November each year.

Anyone interested in volunteering as room stewards at the caves can contact Mr Parker on 01384 872553 or e-mail via mike.parker@nationaltrust.org.uk

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Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

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The Saturday Night Theatre break, from £129.95, includes a ticket for the evening show whereas the Dine and Dance option starts from £139.95, and includes an evening meal with an after-dinner disco. The ticket for this break is for the matinee performance.

Both trips include return coach travel, a choice of theatre ticket from an extensive list of shows, overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer-London four-star hotel, along with some free time in the capital for shopping or sightseeing.

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## Band deserves bigger stage

**Two Door Cinema Club, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton**  
THIS IS The Life, I thought as I settled down to watch the Two Doors.

Bangor-born lead singer Alex Trimble doesn't have that distinctive Northern Irish brogue, but he puts his accent on his music and his band was so good it would

have had Undercover Martyn coming out from the basement to enjoy.

From the opening Sleeps Alone, the hits followed, with Setting Sun, I Can Talk and new single Handshake, ending with What You Know.

And, in the absence of co-performer Valentina, the

### REVIEWS

#### OMD enjoy comeback

**OMD, Symphony Hall, Birmingham.**

OMD's sweeping melodic synth-pop still has a special place in many hearts, hence the couples in their 40s and 50s who ensured a full house for their latest comeback.

New album English Electric has the same compelling appeal as their 80s heyday, combining lush electronics with Andy McCluskey's emotive vocals.

Fans greeted Metroland, from the latest album, like an old favourite. They got plenty of those including Tesla Girls, Maid of Orleans, Joan of Arc and Locomotion.

Paul Humphreys emerged from behind his keyboard to sing Forever Live and Die and returned to his post for the melancholy Souvenir.

They finished their main set with Enola Gay and returned for encores including Secret and Electricity.

Leon Burakowski

#### Masterpiece a 'must-see'

**Blood Brothers, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre**

THERE was a sea of tears as Maureen Nolan headed the cast of Bill Kenwright's latest production of this musical masterpiece.

As Mrs Johnson, she gives a heartfelt performance, while Sean Jones continues to play Mickey with total conviction.

Understudy Tim Churchill took on the difficult role of The Narrator at the last minute.

Blood Brothers remains a 'must-see'. It runs until Saturday. Alison Norton

## Favourite West End star still a charmer

**Michael Ball, Symphony Hall, Birmingham**  
BRITAIN'S favourite West End leading man is still a charmer with a boyish twinkle in his eye at the age of 50. Ladies of a certain age whooped like teenyboppers with appreciation during this two-hour show.

Ball got rolling with a high-energy cover of Lady Gaga's Edge of Glory for a pop-oriented set mostly drawing upon his latest album, Both Sides Now.

This had the Bromsgrove-born showman giving a male perspective to songs associated with female singer-songwriters, including the title song by Joni Mitchell, Katie Melua's Closest Thing To Crazy and an excellent version of Birmingham songstress Joan Armatrading's Love and Affection.

After the interval, it was time for the show-stoppers as the theatre star gave the fans of the musicals what they wanted.

Backed by an 18 piece band, including three exceptional backing singers, Ball was on top form for Empty Tables from Les Mis and a selection of songs by Stephen Sondheim, including Not While I'm Around from

#### Top marks for a first-class production

**Crazy For You, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre**

TOP marks for West Bromwich Operatic Society's latest production. Full of energy and enthusiasm, the company produced a first-class show. Accomplished all-rounder



Michael Ball was at the Symphony Hall

Ball's 2012 starring role as Sweeney Todd, which was to win him the Olivier award the following night.

The big finale was the Andrew Lloyd Webber song that made Ball a star, Love Changes Everything, and then the encores were party time as Ball sang his 1992 Eurovision runner-up song One Step Out Of Time, You Can't Stop The Beat from Hair-spray and a hip-swivelling version of Tom Jones' Help Yourself to send the ladies home happy.

Leon Burakowski

Leon Davies played the lead. Opposite him, Claire Kramer gave a polished performance and there was a good supporting cast.

It was also one of the few shows, amateur and professional, that clear vocals were appreciated.

Les Jowett

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## What's On! Halesowen

Premiere for stage version of *Office*  
NETHERTON Arts Centre will host the world premiere of the stage version of hit TV show *The Office*, by permission of Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant.

See TV's David Brent, the petty and pompous Slough regional boss of paper merchants and colleagues Gareth the pedantic jobsworth, Tim and receptionist Dawn who are still secretly yearning for each other.

The show is on Wednesday May 8 until Saturday May 11 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £7 for adults and £6 concession.

### Town Hall staging music of decades

BARRY Walker & Smackee are now touring with a new two hour presentation that combines the music of four of the greatest piano singer songwriters.

Barry Walker as the Piano Man along with his group Smackee, will perform five decades of the greatest hits from Neil Sedaka, Barry Manilow, Billy Joel & Elton John.

The afternoon show will be at Dudley Town Hall on Tuesday June 11 from 2pm and tickets are £11.00.

The show will run for around 2hrs 30mins.

### Recreating soul

DUDLEY Town Hall is recreating the days of Blackpool Mecca, Wigan Casino, The Torch and The Twisted Wheel for Northern Soul fans on Saturday May 11 at 8pm. Tickets are £7.

# The monsters of metal are making a comeback

BIRMINGHAM'S own rock prince of darkness Ozzy Osbourne will be back with his original band mates when legendary heavy metal outfit Black Sabbath come home for two gigs in their home city in the week before Christmas.

Black Sabbath, also featuring guitarist Tony Iommi and bassist Geezer Butler, were formed in Aston in 1967 and on June 10 release their first studio album since 1978's *Never Say Die*.

New album 13 has been produced by Rick Rubin. Drum duties have been taken by Rage Against The Machine's Brad Wilk, as original drummer Bill Ward is not joining the reunion.

### Arena

As part of a UK December tour, Black Sabbath will play the LG Arena on the 20th before heading into the city centre for an NIA gig on the 22nd. Tickets start at £45.

Other metal highlights include Finland's Eurovision winning shock rockers Lordi at The Institute in Digbeth on May 10; rock veterans Deep Purple featuring Ian Gillan at the NIA on October 15; Florida's Alter Bridge with Shinedown and Halestorm at the NIA on October 17.

Two rock guitar legends are coming up with Joe Satriani at Wolverhampton Civic on June 13 and Joe Bonamassa at the NIA on September 27.



Coming home for two Birmingham concerts in December – Black Sabbath members Geezer Butler, Ozzy Osbourne and Tony Iommi

### PM Hacker in a spin at the Grand

HIT West End play Yes, Prime Minister is being staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday.

The original writers of the classic BBC TV series, Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn, have reunited for this production with a new satirical take on Whitehall.

Prime Minister Jim Hacker and his Cabinet Secretary Sir Humphrey Appleby are back, spinning out of control through the collapsing Euro and austerity measures.

Michael Fenton Stevens, from TV comedy *Benidorm*, will play Prime Minister Jim Hacker and Crispin Redman, from *Law & Order*, will take the role of Sir Humphrey Appleby. Michael Matus will join the cast as Principal Private Secretary Bernard Woolley.

### Sex and class in a power struggle

UK Touring Theatre bring a new version of August Strindberg's Swedish 19th century drama *Julia* to Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Tuesday evening. A flirtation between an aristocratic lady and her father's valet during a midsummer's eve party results in a ferocious power struggle and a battle of the sexes in this classic play.

The Wulfruna Street venue also hosts a staging of George Orwell's 1984 by Sell A Door on Wednesday evening.

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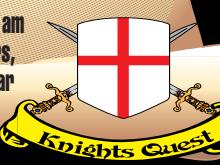
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## What's On!

## SATURDAY'S TV 4.05.13

## CHOICE



Ant and Dec

Britain's Got Talent  
ITV, 7.15pm

More wannabe stars take to the stage in the hope they have what it takes to impress the judges. We've already seen a host of promising acts wow the masses, from shy The Voice reject Alice Fredenham, to former Generation Game hostess Francine Lewis. That coveted Royal Variety Performance slot and a massive prize fund is up for grabs, but, as we all know, this is a hard-fought contest and anything can happen before that final in a few weeks' time. What we do know is Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon will pass judgement.

## BBC1

6.00 Breakfast, 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live, 11.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather. 12.15 Football Focus, 1.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. 4.30 Final Score, 5.20 Pointless Celebrities. (R) 6.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.30 Doctor Who. Madame Vastra, Jenny and Strax have to rescue the people of an 1893 Yorkshire mining town start dying of a mysterious affliction that leaves their bodies bright red and wax-like.

7.15 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers team up and baffle each other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.

8.05 The Voice UK. The final round of blind auditions – the last chance for the remaining hopefuls to win a place on Jessie J, Will.i.am, Tom Jones or Danny O'Donoghue's team.

9.25 Casualty. As details with his daughter's admission to the ED after she is hit by a police car driven by a drunken officer, while Tom's judgement is called into question.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, which included Old Trafford's Manchester United v Arsenal and West Bromwich Albion v Wigan Athletic; National Lottery Update.

12.00 The Football League Show. 1.10 Weatherview. 1.15 BBC News.

## BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two, 6.55 Film: Up in the World, (1985) 8.25 Film: The Early Bird, (1965) 9.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. 12.00 University Challenge. (R) 12.30 Just a Minute. (R) 1.00 Live MotoGP, 2.00 EastEnders. (R) 3.50 Coast. (R) 4.30 Live Snooker: The World Championship. 5.30 Flog It! 6.30 The Ant and Dec Show: the platoon try to capture three German girmen who have landed in a lake after bailing out and intend to stay in their dinghy until nightfall. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Jason Gardiner presents coverage of the concluding session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where ties are contested over the best of 33 frames. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.

9.30 The XL. Stephen Fry is joined by Jack Dee, Chris Addison, Rich Hall and the panelist Alan Davies on an extended edition of the quiz with a difference. (R)

10.15 The United States of Television: America in Prime Time. Alan Yentob reflects on the social and cultural changes that transformed the traditional image of a stay-at-home mother portrayed on American TV in the 1950s into the independent woman of today.

11.15 Film: Sin City. (2005) Three tales of urban vice set on the dark streets to be vital and unforgivingly graphic. Thriller, with Mickey Rourke, Bruce Willis and Clive Owen.

1.10 This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

6.00 CITV: Special Agent Oso. 6.10 Special Agent Oso, 6.25 The Hive. (R) 6.35 The Hive. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan. (R) 6.55 Dino Dan. (R) 7.05 Canimals. (R) 7.15 Canimals. (R) 7.20 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 7.35 Ultimate Spider-Man. 8.00 Jessie. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Saturday Farm. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (A) 10.20 My Tast. Travels with Lynne in Bellingham. (R) 11.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 12.20 ITV News; Weather. 12.35 Fool Britannia. (R) 1.05 All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) 2.05 River Monsters. (R) 3.10 The Chase. (R) 4.10 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 You've Been Framed! Top 50 Wedding. Comedian Harry Hill narrates a countdown of 100 wedding-themed cardcorder calamities and viewer-submitted mobile-phone clips. (R)

7.15 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host the nationwide competition, with the line-up of entertainers try to impress judges Simon Cowell, David Williams, Alesha Dixon and Amanda Holden.

8.15 The Cube. Two more contestants take up the challenge.

9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Zachary Quinto, Zoe Saldana and music by Thom Yorke.

10.20 ITV News; Weather.

10.35 Film: Basic Instinct. (1992) Thriller, starring Sharon Stone and Michael Douglas.

12.50 Jackpot! 2.47, 3.00 The Starter Wife. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 Caterham Motorsport. 7.00 FIM Superbike World Championship. 7.25 The Grid. 7.55 The Morning Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.00 Frasier. (R) 10.30 Frasier. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.05 The Simpsons. (R) 12.35 Heston's Titanic Feast. (R) 1.40 Channel 4 Racing. 4.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.40 Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.40 Come Dine with Me.

7.00 Entrepreneur Ken Brown hosts the final dinner party in Co Durham and Wearside, and provides his guests with some unique entertainment before the winner is announced. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Sarah Beeny's Selling Houses. Homeowners in Walsall, Borehamwood, look around one another's properties for improvement ideas and then spruce up their own on a £1,000 budget, hoping to attract buyers.

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows interior designer Ruthie after as she tries to fulfil her dream of creating a Scandinavian-style eco house in her mother's back garden in Cornwall. (R)

9.00 Film: Star Trek. (2009) Sci-fi adventure, with Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto.

11.25 Film: Premonition. (2007) Supernatural thriller, starring Sandra Bullock.

1.20 Film: Madagacar. (1963) Drama, starring Madagacar Mukherjee. 3.35 Coming Up. (R) 4.05 Hollyoaks. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.15 Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) 10.50 Batman: The Brave and the Bold. 11.15 Inside Hollywood. 11.20 Frontline Police. (R) 12.20 Emergency Bikers. (R) 1.20 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild. (R) 2.25 Film: Avalanche Express. (1979) 4.10 Film: Breakheart Pass. (1975)

6.00 5 News Weekend.

6.05 Film: Stone Cold. (2005) A hard-drinking chief of police pursues a serial killer and investigates the rape of a teenager. Detective drama, starring Tom Selleck.

7.30 NCIS. An attempted robbery leads to the death of a lieutenant. (R)

8.20 NCIS. The agents find out about a government organisation dedicated to child prodigies while investigating a marine's death, and realise a 12-year-old could be the killer's next target. (R)

9.20 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. An inspector for the department of health is murdered.

10.15 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A killer achieves a crime committed 20 years previously.

11.10 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A witness in a rape case is reluctant to testify.

12.20 Super Casino. 4.00 Wildlife SOS. (R) 4.20 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 4.45 County Secrets. (R) 4.55 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.05 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.15 Big Bang Racing Car. (R) 5.25 The Funky Vulture Show. (R) 5.35 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.50 Roaring the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Paul's Greatest Dance Crazes 7.35 Animal Antics 7.35 Film: G-Force. (2009) 9.00 Small Stuff 9.30 Russell Howard's Good News 10.00 Family Guy 10.45 American Dad! 11.30 Film: Old School (2003)

BBC Four

7.00 South Pacific 8.00 A303: Highway to the Sun 9.00 Arne Dahl: To the Top of the Mountain – Part One 10.30 Queen Live in Budapest: Hungarian Rhapsody

ITV2

2.35 Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas. (2000) 4.20 You've Been Framed! 6.00 Film: Twister (1996) 8.15 Britain's Got More Talent 9.20 Totally You've Been Framed! 10.15 Celebrity Juice 11.15 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 11.35 Britain's Got Talent

ITV3

2.00 A Touch of Frost 4.00 Film: Watership Down (1978) 5.55 Agatha Christie's Marple 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Lewis 11.00 Taggart

ITV4

3.45 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. 7.30 Indian Premier League Greatest Hits 8.30 River Monsters 9.35 Film: Jaws 2 (1978) 11.55 Film: Sweeney! (1977)

E4

2.25 The Mindy Project 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 Youngers. 7.30 How I Met Your Mother 8.30 2 Broke Girls 9.00 Film: The Omen (2006) 11.15 The Big Bang Theory

Film4

3.10 Home Alone (1990) 5.10 She's the Man (2006) 7.10 Legend (1985) 9.00 Dogma. (1999) Comedy, with Matt Damon and Matt Damon 11.20 Star Trek: Into Darkness Interview Special 11.40 30 Days of Night (2007)

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## What's On!

Listings supplied by Press Association

## SUNDAY'S TV 5.05.13

## CHOICE



Azi Farni

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast, **7.30** Match of the Day, (R) **8.00** The Andrew Marr Show, **10.00** The Big Questions, **11.00** Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead, **12.20** Countryfile, (R) **1.15** Bargain Hunt, (R) **2.15** Helicopter Heroes, **2.45** Points of View, **3.00** Escape to the Country, (R) **4.00** Songs of Praise, **4.35** Great Bear Stakeout, (R) **5.35** The Diamond Queen, (R) **6.35** BBC News, Regional News; Weather.

**7.00** **Countryfile**, Reports from Cambridgeshire, going behind the scenes of Newmarket racecourse, profiling local poet John Clare and telling the story of Victorian naturalist the Rev Leonard Jenyns, during Weather for the Week Ahead.

**8.00** **Antiques Roadshow**, the experts are in Chepstow, Monmouthshire, where items include early Olympic Games medals and a lightbulb containing a painstakingly made model of Lincoln Cathedral.

**9.00** **The Village**, Old Bert recalls 1920, as the local honour and the town's annual unveiling of a memorial. But there is upset when one name is left off the list of the fallen. Last in the series.

**10.00** BBC News, Regional News; Weather.

**10.25** **Match of the Day 2**, Colin Murray and guests look back at the day's Premier League matches, which were Manchester United, Chelsea at Old Trafford and Liverpool v Everton at Anfield.

**11.35** **Regional Programme**.

**12.05** **The Sky at Night**, **12.25** Film: A Boy Called Dad, (2009) **1.40** Weatherview, **1.45** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** This Is BBC Two, **6.10** Film: Experiment Perilous, (1944) Murder mystery, starring Hedy Lamar, **7.40** Film: The White Tower, (1950) Mountaineering drama, starring Alida Valli, **9.15** The A to Z of TV Gardening, **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites, **11.30** The Beechgrove Garden, **12.00** Gardeners' World, (R) **12.30** live MotoGP, The Spanish Grand Prix MotoGP race (Start-time 1.00pm), **2.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. Coverage of the opening session of the final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first eight frames of the match are scheduled to take place.

**6.00** **East**, Stories linked to sea cliffs around the UK, with Nick Crane visiting a funicular railway at Saltburn-by-the-Sea and Andy Torbet taking part in an exercise with commando recruits, (R)

**7.00** **Live Snooker: The World Championship**, Hazel Irvine and Mark Williams present all the action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

**11.00** **Dave Allen: God's Own Comedian**, Dave Allen at the life, career and legacy of the Irish comedy writer and performer, featuring interviews with family and friends and rare archive material, (R)

**12.00** Film: Romance and Cigarettes, (2005) Musical drama, starring James Gandolfini, **1.40** Star Zone: Countryfile, **2.35** Harry City, Elliot and Olle come into conflict, (R) **3.35** This is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Special Agent Oso, **6.10** Special Agent Oso, **6.25** The Hive, (R) **6.35** The Hive, (R) **6.40** Dino Dan, (R) **6.55** Dino Dan, (R) **7.05** Canimals, (R) **7.15** Canimals, (R) **7.20** Almost Naked Animals, (R) **7.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, **8.00** Sonny with a Chance, **8.25** ITV News, **8.30** Country House, **8.25** The Sun, **9.00** The Sun, **9.25** The Sun, **9.30** Weather, (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote, (R) **11.20** Dickinson's Real Deal, (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather, **12.30** Love Your Garden, (R) **1.30** Britain's Got Talent, (R) **2.30** Film: Fletch, (1985) Comedy mystery, with Chevy Chase and Tim Mathers, (R)

**6.15** **Regional Programme**; Weather.

**6.30** ITV News; Weather.

**6.45** Mulhern hosts the revival of the game show in which contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

**7.30** **Off Their Rockers**, A. A. Milne hosts the revival of the game show in which contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

**8.00** **Endeavour**, A professor is killed in a hit-and-run. Last in the series.

**10.00** **Perspectives: Hugh Laurie: Copper Bottom Blues**, The actor and musician delves into the history of the blues in America. Last in the series.

**10.55** ITV News; Weather.

**11.15** **Premiership Rugby Union**.

Action from the final round of fixtures in the regular season.

**12.10** Film: Charulata, (1964) Drama, with Madhuri Mukherjee and Soumitra Chatterjee, **2.45** Coming Up, (R) **3.10** A Place in the Sun, **3.30** Film: The Deal or No Deal, (R) **4.00** Film: The Deal or No Deal, (R) **4.00** Film: The Deal or No Deal, (R) **5.45** SuperScrappers, **5.50** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard, (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.00** The Hoops, **6.35** The Hoops, (R) **7.05** Freesports on 4, **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) **8.25** Frasier, (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch, **12.00** The Big Bang Theory, (R) **12.25** The Big Bang Theory, (R) **1.30** The Simpsons, (R) **1.45** The Simpsons, (R) **1.50** Channel 4 Racing, **4.10** Deal or No Deal, **5.10** Five Minutes to a Fortune, **6.10** Channel 4 News.

**6.30** **Come Dine with Me**, Four contestants take part in a week of competitive dining in Surrey, beginning with estate agent James Hartrell hosting a Best of British-themed evening, (R)

**7.25** Film: Culver's Travels, (2010) Premiere. A man tries to prove himself by exploring the Bermuda Triangle, and ends up stuck on an island where he is a giant. Fantasy comedy, starring Jack Black and Lucy Punch.

**9.00** **Peter Kay's Live: The Tour That Didn't Tour**, Tour. Peter Kay brings his hugely successful tour to the small screen, returning to live stand-up comedy after a seven-year break, (R)

**10.55** Film: The Waterboy, (1998) The coach of an American football team spots the talent of three run-down workers and gives him the chance to prove himself on the pitch. Comedy, with Adam Sandler.

**12.40** Film: Charulata, (1964) Drama, with Madhuri Mukherjee and Soumitra Chatterjee, **2.45** Coming Up, (R) **3.10** A Place in the Sun, **3.30** Film: The Deal or No Deal, (R) **4.00** Film: The Deal or No Deal, (R) **4.00** Film: The Deal or No Deal, (R) **5.45** SuperScrappers, **5.50** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard, (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!, Peppa Pig, **6.05** Roary the Racing Car, (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots, (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures, (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show, (R) **6.45** Chloe's Closet, **6.55** Roobarb and Custard Too, (R) **7.00** Bananas in Pyjamas, (R) **7.15** Animal Antics, (R) **7.30** Mio Mio, (R) **7.40** City of Friends, (R) **7.50** Milkshake!, Monkey, (R) **7.55** Little Princess, (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky, (R) **8.20** Milkshake!, Show Songs, (R) **8.25** Anna and the Beer Bear, (R) **8.45** SuperScrappers, (R) **8.55** Bert and Holly's Little Kingdom, (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus, (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car, (R) **9.45** Jelly Jamm, (R) **10.00** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures, (R) **10.10** Power Rangers: Super Sentai, (R) **10.20** Battle of the Brave and the Bold, **11.05** Climbing the Giants, (R) **11.35** The Hotel Inspector, (R) **12.35** Film: Thunderpants, (2002) **2.20** Film: Along Came Polly, (2004) **4.00** Film: What a Girl Wants, (2003)

**6.00** Film: Dirty Dancing, (1987) Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey.

**8.05** **Once Upon a Time**, Dr Whale resurrects Regina's dead lover.

**9.00** **The Truth About Travellers**.

**9.55** **5 News Weekend**.

**10.00** Film: London Boulevard, (2010) Premiere. Crime drama, with Colin Farrell.

**11.55** **Soho Blues**, (R)

**12.55** SuperCasino, **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge, (R)

**4.45** County Secrets, (R) **4.55** Hana's Helpline, (R) **5.05** Angels of Jarm, (R) **5.15** Race to the Racing Jarm, (R) **5.25** The Funky Valentine Show, (R) **5.35** Hana's Helpline, (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car, (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **7.10** Snog, Marnie andoid? **7.40** The Voice UK, (R) **8.00** Russell Howard's Good News, Extra **8.45** Sweat the Small Stuff, Extra Sweaty **10.30** Barely Legal Drivers **11.30** Family Guy

**BBC Four**  
7.00 She-Wolves: England's Early Queens **8.00** Timewatch: Stonehenge **9.00** Margaret **10.55** Top of the Pops 1977: Big Hits **11.55** Top of the Pops 1978: Big Hits

**ITV2**  
3.30 You've Been Framed! **4.35** Britain's Got Talent **5.40** Britain's Got More Talent **6.45** Film: Peter Pan **9.00** Film: 300 (2006)

**ITV3**  
3.50 Film: The Secret of My Success (1987) **5.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00** Film: Seabiscuit (2003) Fact-based horse racing drama, with Steve McQueen

**ITV4**  
10.45 Live British Touring Car Championship, **6.00** BRDC Formula 1 Championship, **7.00** Formula 1 World of Sport, 1990s **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Indian Premier League Cricket

**ITV5**  
3.40 How I Met Your Mother **4.35** Revenge **5.30** New Girl **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** The Mindy Project **8.00** Film: Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **9.05** Derren Brown: Enigma **11.35** 2 Broke Girls

**Film4**  
3.45 Five Children and It (2004) **4.45** Inkheart (2008) **6.55** Another Stakeout (1993) **9.00** True Lies (1994) **11.45** Predator (1987)

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## What's On!

### Film Choices

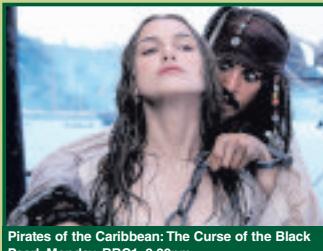
#### MONDAY

Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl, BBC1, 8.30pm  
A buccaneer and a blacksmith commander a British ship and set sail in pursuit of a pirate captain who has kidnapped a colonial governor's daughter. However, their quarry and his crew are under a curse that turns them into living skeletons – and makes them impossible to kill. Swashbuckling fantasy adventure, starring Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Geoffrey Rush, Jack Davenport and Jonathan Pryce. (2003)

#### TUESDAY

##### Fast & Furious, ITV, 10.40pm

A phone call informing him of a friend's murder brings international fugitive Dominic Toretto back to his home city of Los Angeles in search of revenge. It is not long before his pursuit leads him to cross paths with FBI agent Brian, and despite their hostile feelings toward one another, the pair work together as part of a smuggling ring to bring down those responsible. Thriller sequel, starring Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez and Jordana Brewster. (2009)



Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl, Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm

#### WEDNESDAY

##### The Ninth Gate, Channel 5, 9pm

A book dealer is hired by a wealthy collector to locate the two remaining copies of 17th-century work The Nine Gates to the Kingdom of Shadows. His search takes him to New York, Madrid and Paris as he becomes increasingly curious about rumours that the book's author collaborated with the Devil. Roman Polanski's horror, starring Johnny Depp, Emmanuelle Seigner, Frank Langella and Lena Olin. (1999)

#### THURSDAY

##### McBride: Fallen Idol, Channel 5, 3.20pm

McBride is devastated to learn his mentor, a talented defence attorney, has been stabbed to death outside his home. The crusading lawyer becomes involved in the case, and it quickly becomes apparent that the victim was hiding a dark secret. Mystery, starring John Larroquette, Marta BoBoi and Matt Lutz. (2006)

#### FRIDAY

##### Mansfield Park, BBC2, 11.05pm

The impoverished parents of a headstrong young woman decide to send their daughter to live with wealthy relatives, ensuring her a brighter future. As she grows up, she becomes a keen observer of human nature, investigating attitudes to marriage and social status, while honing her skills as an author. Drama, based on Jane Austen's novel, starring Frances O'Connor, Harold Pinter, Embeth Davidtz, Jonny Lee Miller, Alessandro Nivola and James Purefoy. (1999)

## Locals struggle to come to terms with their losses

**M**urk, grime and endless misery – those are the three things we'll take away from watching The Village, the BBC's relentlessly grim drama set in the Peak District in the early part of the 20th century.

That description may sound as if we've hated every minute of the six-part series, but that's just not true – it's been a masterclass in acting, with some amazing stories and characters. But boy, a little escape from the drudgery every now and then would have been nice.

But then again, they haven't had much to smile about.

"Life is a struggle for them and they scrape by and the marriage is quite strained due to the desperate situation," says Maxine Peake of her character, Grace Middleton, and her family.

This week, the plot moves on to 1920 and the Great War has been over for two years – but the village's residents are still counting the cost.

After being locked up thanks to his status as a conscientious objector, it's Eye who notices the biggest

differences, not just to the place itself, but the manner of his former friends and neighbours.

Soldiers continue to return from the war, some unable to immediately settle into their old lives by going back to their factory jobs, little realising that the women who took their places have no intention of giving them up and have, in fact, joined a union.

Bert, now 18, invites his old teacher to stay with the Middletons, but it isn't a happy visit thanks to the tension caused by Joe's death – and the unveiling of the local war memorial doesn't improve the mood either.

Grace learns that her son's name won't be added to the list of the "glorious dead", while Margaret discovers that her boy's body won't be coming home.

So, it's clear that Maxine's character still can't find happiness. At least the actress herself was more than happy to be involved with the project!

"I've never filmed in the Peak District before," she explains. "It's such a beautiful part of Britain, which

I think gets slightly overshadowed by the Lake District when people think of Northern beauty spots.

"When I was around 10, I used to go to the Union Chapel and they had a hotel in the village. We'd have breaks there going walking and pot-holing. I'd forgotten how breathtaking the scenery was until I started filming."

Despite having fun on set with co-stars such as John Simm and Juliet Stevenson, she's enjoyed getting back to the comforts of 2013 after filming: "We shot quite a few scenes with gas lamps and candles as the only source of light. It was a bit tricky doing certain scenes when you couldn't see the other actors you were talking to!"

"Given the cold wet weather, an electric blanket would have been nice. Hot water bottles were my saviour when we were filming scenes in bed!"

This is the last in the current series, and many more are planned so that the story of the Middletons is brought right up to date – here's hoping it won't be long before it's back.

It's the last in the current series, and many more are planned so that the story of the Middletons is brought right up to date – here's hoping it won't be long before it's back.

## Pick of the Week



John Simm heads the cast of The Village, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

## Best of the Rest

#### MONDAY

##### Live Snooker: The World Championship BBC2, 7pm

Hazel Irvine and Jason Mohammad present the concluding session of this year's final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the successful player needs to reach 18 frames to lift the famous trophy. Ronnie O'Sullivan duly completed his victory in last year's final, turning a 15-10 advantage into an 18-11 triumph over Ali Carter to win the tournament for the fourth time. This time around, Mark Selby was fancied by many to reach this stage, having enjoyed a strong year so far, while Judd Trump entered the tournament looking to go one better than in 2011, when he was beaten by John Higgins in the showpiece match.

#### The Job Lot

##### ITV, 9.30pm

Although somewhat overshadowed last week by Vicious, ITV's other big Monday night launch show, this sitcom certainly showed lots of promise. Set in a Midlands job centre, it focuses on the staff and clients that either work, or would like to gain work, there. This week, Trish is fighting to boost the centre's figures, and brings in the heavy artillery – Army sergeant Steve Fox, who turns the place into a recruitment office, and ends up getting some unwanted interest from an unexpected source. Meanwhile, benefit fraud officer George tries to paper over the cracks when his attempt to catch a man who's been signing on while working as a decorator backfires.

#### TUESDAY

##### Caroline Quentin's National Parks ITV, 8pm

Caroline Quentin's on her travels again. It only seems like two minutes since she was exploring Cornwall, and here she is, bags packed once more. This time she's visiting three of Britain's most spectacular National Parks, beginning with Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, which are nestled in the south west of Scotland. Caroline's first trip involves seeing the area from a great vantage point – via a sea-plane flight. She's left puffing and blowing by another excursion, this time involving caber-tossing at Inveraray, the site of the annual Highland Games. It's a sport Caroline is adamant she won't be taking up full time – let's hope her attempts at bat-watching, traditional dancing and wild swimming go a little bit better...

#### The Apprentice

##### BBC1, 9pm

Over the years we've seen Tim Campbell, Michelle Dewberry, Simon Ambrose, Lee McQueen, Yasmina Siadat, Stella English, Thomas Pelleureau and Ricky Martin (not that one) seize victory, but it remains to be seen which of this new lot have the right stuff to impress Alan Sugar and his cohorts. First task: Eight boys versus eight girls; each group is taken to a shipping container full of imported products. Their challenge? To work through



The Apprentice, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

the night to sort the products out and then sell everything before 4pm. If this lot leaves you hungry for more, don't miss sister show The Apprentice: You're Fired, in which Dara O Briain returns for another light-hearted autopsy with the first unlucky loser.

#### WEDNESDAY

##### Scott & Bailey

##### ITV, 9pm

Rachel Bailey is independent, feisty, and very, very good at her job, but does that mean she's a suitable role model for an impressionable young girl? Janet's mother Dorothy certainly doesn't think so, as she worries about the new lodger's influence on her granddaughter Taisie. However, she probably doesn't need to speak to Janet about it just yet, as knowing Rachel, it won't be long before she shows Taisie her less glamorous side... Meanwhile, the Syndicate investigates the death of nursing home resident Gerald French. His daughter Catherine is concerned about the care he'd been receiving, and when a seemingly shy trainee is discovered slapping an elderly resident, it seems she may have a point.

#### THURSDAY

##### Murder on the Home Front

##### ITV, 9pm

The inventive, controversial and occasionally taboo-busting origins of forensic science are revealed in this thoroughly entertaining new wartime drama. The first episode follows Home Office pathologist Dr Lennox Collins and his vivacious secretary Molly Cooper (played by Boardwalk Empire's Patrick Kennedy and The Tudors' Tamzin Merchant) as they investigate the murder of a man found with a swastika carved into his head. When their groundbreaking techniques quickly disprove the guilt of a chief suspect, the duo come face-to-face with hostility on both sides of the law. Based on the memoirs of a wartime member of the Home Office Pathology Department, Murder on the Home Front promises to be a polished and exciting addition to ITV's roster of impressive period dramas.

#### FRIDAY

##### Pride & Prejudice: Having a Ball

##### BBC2, 9pm

What better way to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Pride and Prejudice than a ball? Of course, back in 1813, when Jane Austen's much-loved novel was first published, readers would have known exactly how to go about organising such a bash, but in the 21st century, we need a little help. So presenters Alastair Sooke and Amanda Vickery have drafted in a team of experts to recreate the Netherfield Ball, the intimate, country-house gathering that provides a key turning point in the relationship between Mr Darcy and Elizabeth Bennett.

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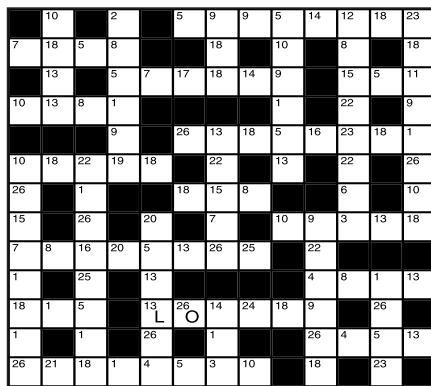
## What's On!

## Brain Gym

No.219

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008	1009	10010	10011	10012	10013	10014	10015	10016	10017	10018	10019	10020	10021	10022	10023	10024	10025	10026	10027	10028	10029	10030	10031	10032	10033	10034	10035	10036	10037	10038	10039	10040	10041	10042	10043	10044	10045	10046	10047	10048	10049	10050	10051	10052	10053	10054	10055	10056	10057	10058	10059	10060	10061	10062	10063	10064	10065	10066	10067	10068	10069	10070	10071	10072	10073	10074	10075	10076	10077	10078	10079	10080	10081	10082	10083	10084	10085	10086	10087	10088	10089	10090	10091	10092	10093	10094	10095	10096	10097	10098	10099	100100	100101	100102	100103	100104	100105	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# Home of Property

Property guide for Dudley, Halesowen, Sedgley, Kidderminster and Stourbridge

## Luxury home has undergone update



The first floor of the Georgian style home has been updated and extended over the double garage

**AN impressive five bedroom Georgian style house in Lower Gornal is for sale based on offers around £430,000.**

The property in High Arcal Road, Straits, has undergone a scheme of updating over the last few years to include an enlarged and re-fitted breakfast kitchen, utility room and cloakroom, and benefits from mainly double-glazed and centrally heated accommodation.

The first floor has been extended above the garage to provide five bed-

rooms, two with en-suites, two with dressing rooms and a family bathroom. There are landscaped gardens to the front, side and rear and are set behind a wall with gated access and ample parking.

On the ground floor a cloakroom has a white suite of WC and wash hand basin and there is also a family room/study, through lounge with feature living flame wall mounted gas fire and a dining room with door to the garden. The breakfast kitchen has a range of fitted wall, base and drawer units with granite worktops over, built-in fridge/freezer, dishwasher and wine

fridge, two built-in electric double ovens and grills, stainless steel sink and central island with electric induction hob with extractor over.

There is also a utility room with base cupboard, work top, stainless steel sink and mixer tap, space and plumbing for washing machine and tumble dryer and a cloakroom with WC and wash hand basin.

On the first floor the master bedroom has a range of built-in wardrobes, dressing room and white en-suite with sink, WC and shower cubicle. Call Berriman Eaton on 01902 747744 for further information.

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fridge, two built-in electric double ovens and grills, stainless steel sink and central island with electric induction hob with extractor over.

There is also a utility room with base cupboard, work top, stainless steel sink and mixer tap, space and plumbing for washing machine and tumble dryer and a cloakroom with WC and wash hand basin.

On the first floor the master bedroom has a range of built-in wardrobes, dressing room and white en-suite with sink, WC and shower cubicle. Call Berriman Eaton on 01902 747744 for further information.

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Oldbury



**Wolverhampton Road**  
\* Extended & Modernised Semi Detached House  
\* Downstairs Shower/Wet Room  
\* Master Bedroom With En-suite  
\* Three Further Bedrooms  
\* Small Garage/Store (not measured)  
\* EPC = D  
**£250,000**

Bradley Heath



**Plot 1 Albut Street**  
\* Brand New semi detached  
\* 3 bedrooms  
\* Lounge \* Cloakroom  
\* Kitchen/dining room  
\* Enclosed garden  
\* Off road parking  
\* EPC = B  
**£117,500**

Dudley



**Dudley Wood Avenue**  
\* L Shaped Lounge/Dining Room  
\* Sun Lounge  
\* Kitchen with Oven/Hob  
\* Three Bedrooms  
\* Re-fitted Bathroom with Bath and Shower  
\* Large Garden  
\* Gas Boiler Heating Radiators  
\* EPC = D  
**Offers in the region of £149,950**

Oldbury



**Titford Road**  
\* Well presented semi-detached house  
\* Three bedrooms \* Bathroom  
\* Through living room separate to form lounge/dining room  
\* Extended kitchen/breakfast room  
\* Enclosed gardens  
\* Garage, off road parking for boat/caravan etc  
\* EPC = D  
**Offers in the region of £175,000**

Smethwick



**Hamilton Road**  
\* Terraced House  
\* Conservatory  
\* Master Bedroom with En-suite  
\* Two Further Properties  
\* Family Bathroom  
\* Off Road Parking  
\* EPC = D  
**Offers in the region of £124,950**

Smethwick



**William Road**  
\* A brand new detached family house  
\* Quality fitted kitchen \* Extensive living room  
\* Main bedroom with ensuite shower room \* Two further bedrooms  
\* 2nd floor guest bedroom with ensuite bathroom  
\* House bathroom  
\* Double glazed windows  
\* Gas boiler heating radiators  
\* Brand new fitted carpets  
\* EPC = B  
**Offers in the region of £250,000**

Oldbury



**Walters Road**  
\* Traditional semi-detached house  
\* Three bedrooms & bathroom  
\* Through living room (divided)  
\* Fitted kitchen  
\* Garden  
\* Garage & parking space at rear  
\* Gas boiler heating radiators  
\* EPC = E  
**Offers in the region of £155,000**

Stourbridge Hagley



**The Brake**  
\* Mid Terraced House  
\* Three Bedrooms  
\* Downstairs wc  
\* Pleasant Rear Garden  
\* Communal Parking  
\* EPC = D  
**Offers in the region of £169,950**

Oldbury



**Apsley Road**  
\* Spacious Semi Detached House  
\* Two Reception Rooms  
\* Utility  
\* Re-Fitted Shower Room  
\* Garage  
\* EPC = C  
**Offers in the region of £149,950**

Rowley Regis



**Rear of 241 Oldbury Road**  
An opportunity to acquire a parcel of land with a block of 7 lock up garages accessed via a gated private driveway and situated close to junction 2 of the M5 motorway  
**Offers in the region of £25,000**

Bradley Heath



**10 Bramble Close**  
\* modern terraced house  
\* 2 bedrooms  
\* double glazed windows  
\* gas boiler/radiator heating  
\* contemporary bathroom  
\* additional enclosed parking at rear  
\* EPC = C  
**Monthly rent of £565**  
+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1<sup>st</sup> tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required of 6 weeks rent.

Rowley Regis



**25 Hawes Lane**  
\* Mid-terraced house  
\* Three bedrooms  
\* Fitted kitchen with some appliances  
\* parking space  
\* EPC = C  
\* One Bedroom  
\* Open plan kitchen/living room  
\* Night storage heating  
\* Car space  
**Monthly rent of £575**  
+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1<sup>st</sup> tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required of 6 weeks rent.

Tipton



**15 Old Port Close**  
\* First Floor Flat  
\* NEWLY REFURBISHED  
\* EPC = C  
\* One Bedroom  
\* Open plan kitchen/living room  
\* Night storage heating  
\* Car space  
**Monthly rent of £389**  
+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1<sup>st</sup> tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required of 6 weeks rent.

Stourbridge



**Flat 3 29 New Road**  
\* Second floor flat  
\* One Bedroom  
\* Kitchen with some appliances  
\* Allocated parking  
\* Night storage heating  
\* Available Now!  
\* EPC = E  
**Monthly rent of £395**  
+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1<sup>st</sup> tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required of 6 weeks rent.

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29 Knott's Lane, Oldbury B68 9LG

Reduced to Offers in the Region of  
£184,950



- Extended Semi Detached Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended Re-fitted Kitchen Diner
- EPC Rating: E (53)
- Two Reception Rooms
- Landscaped Rear Gardens

An EXTENDED semi-detached family home in a HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER ROAD within Oldbury. Boasting a well maintained rear garden and rear field views, viewings are vital to appreciate the condition, location and size on offer. With FURTHER POTENTIAL TO EXTEND (subject to planning permission) and benefiting from double glazing and combi gas central heating (both where specified), this ideal family home comprises; front fore garden and driveway providing off road parking, porch, hallway, front reception room, rear extended reception room, extended and re-fitted kitchen diner, re-fitted utility, side garage, downstairs W.C., three bedrooms, upstairs bathroom with separate shower cubicle and landscaped rear garden.

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Lettings **hickshadley.com** 0121 585 6688**OPEN SUNDAYS!****FRIENDLY SERVICE YOU CAN TRUST!****HALESOWEN, INKBERROW ROAD**

A 3/4 bedroom town house located in central Halesowen on the popular Hartlands Estate comprising: modern fitted kitchen, large living room, 3 double bedrooms plus bedroom four/study. Gas central heating. Double glazed throughout. Bathroom with shower. Driveway for 3/4 vehicles. Garage not included. Private rear garden. Not to be missed! EPC: D £675 PCM

**HALESOWEN, WHITTINGHAM ROAD**

The best position for Newfield Primary School and Halesowen College. This large 3 bedroom semi-detached house features fitted kitchen with double oven and gas hob, utility room/storage area, huge lounge with patio doors to a nice sized rear garden, modern bathroom with 'p' shaped bath and shower, driveway parking and garage. EPC: F £650 PCM

**HALESOWEN, HOWLEY GRANGE ROAD**

A large and unfurnished semi detached house in a well sought after location, close to local primary school and ideal for access to Birmingham. Featuring gas central heating, 2 living rooms, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, small rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: E £625 PCM

**HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE**

Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury 1st floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B £625 PCM

**OLDBURY, ST MATTHEWS ROAD**

Refurbished to a high standard. This 3 bedroom mid-terrace property in Oldbury/Quinton area has lounge, fitted kitchen, gas central heating, white bathroom suite with shower, separate wc, rear garden with parking. Available immediately. EPC: D £600 PCM

**DUDLEY, STOURBRIDGE ROAD**

Totally refurbished to a good standard with period features. A terraced 4 bedroom property close to Dudley town centre featuring a ground floor entrance hall with minton flooring, charming lounge and separate dining room with feature fireplaces, large new kitchen with breakfast bar, downstairs wc, family bathroom with shower and a wonderful rear garden. Viewing recommended to appreciate this property. Available immediately. EPC: F £595 PCM

**HALESOWEN, BEAUMONT ROAD**

Superb fully re-furbished traditional semi-detached house available end of April. 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazed. A must see property! EPC: E £550 PCM

**HALESOWEN, NEW JOHN STREET**

Well presented mid terraced house within walking distance to Blackheath. This large mid terraced house features 3 good sized bedrooms, gas central heating, lounge, fitted dining kitchen with range cooker, utility room, en-suite shower room, guest WC, bathroom with shower, large garden, driveway parking. EPC: D £550 PCM

**HALESOWEN, HAWNE COURT**

Located in a quiet, desirable neighborhood this well kept ground floor apartment is situated at the end of a peaceful cul de sac, offering a spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen with built in appliances, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, bathroom with fitted shower, allocated parking space with garage. EPC: D £525 PCM

**HALESOWEN, BEECHER ROAD**

An unfurnished semi detached house, ideally located for local shops, buses and Coley Lane Primary School, briefly comprising of 3 bedrooms, lounge, fitted dining kitchen, gas central heating, double glazing, downstairs bathroom, laundry room, en-suite shower room to master bedroom, driveway parking, front and rear gardens. A value for money property. EPC: D £525 PCM

**BARTLEY GREEN, LUDFORD ROAD**

Located in the Woodgate area. Ideally situated for local shops and buses to Stourbridge. A large and spacious ground floor apartment features modern decor and fixtures and benefits from gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen with white goods, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with separate shower cubical, allocated parking space. EPC: C £525 PCM

**HALESOWEN, ADAMS COURT**

Conveniently located for local shops and buses to Halesowen and Stourbridge. A large and spacious ground floor apartment features modern decor and fixtures and benefits from gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen with white goods, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with separate shower cubical, allocated parking space. EPC: C £525 PCM

**HALESOWEN, WILLETS DRIVE**

An unfurnished mid terraced house comprising of: Breakfast Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms, Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Bathroom With Shower, Driveway Parking, Gardens. EPC: C £510 PCM

**TIPTON, PEARTREE AVENUE**

Cul-de-sac location. This deceptively large 3 bedroom terraced house has undergone a redecoration. It features a spacious lounge, large modern kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice sized garden, driveway parking and is in a quiet cul-de-sac location. EPC: C £500 PCM

**TIPTON, MONARCH DRIVE**

A lovely traditional semi detached home briefly comprising of: living room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, nice sized garden, driveway parking, front and rear gardens. Viewing essential. EPC: C £495 PCM

**CRADLEY HEATH, SEEDHOUSE COURT**

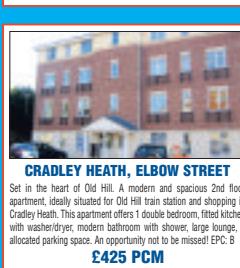
Set within lovely private gardens. Ideally located for Old Hill train station and shopping in local shops and buses to Cradley Heath, Halesowen and Hill. A part furnished ground floor apartment featuring 2 double bedrooms, fitted kitchen with white goods, spacious lounge with sofa and dining table and chairs, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking. EPC: D £475 PCM

**LYE, HIGH STREET**

Fully refurbished in the centre of Lye. This large and spacious 1st floor apartment features a lovely lounge with a feature bay window, 2 good size bedrooms, new bathroom suite but no shower, modern and contemporary kitchen with oven and hob, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. Available now. EPC: F £450 PCM

**NETHERTON, ST GEORGES ROAD**

Spacious and quiet. A totally refurbished 1st floor apartment featuring electric storage heating, living room, fitted kitchen with a fridge freezer, 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, house bathroom with shower, rear garden, parking space. EPC: D £425 PCM

**CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET**

Set in the heart of Old Hill. A modern and spacious 2nd floor apartment, ideally situated for Old Hill train station and shopping in Cradley Heath. This apartment offers 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with washer/dryer, modern bathroom with shower, large lounge, 1 allocated parking space. An opportunity not to be missed! EPC: B £425 PCM

**OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD**

Deceptively large and spacious. A split level apartment above local shops, within walking distance to bus links for Langley and Oldbury and close to J2 of the M5. Comprises gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to rear, with the added bonus of a porch, unfurnished. EPC: B £400 PCM

**NETHERTON, BAPTIST END ROAD**

An unfurnished 1st floor flat comprising: living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, parking space to rear, communal garden. EPC: D £395 PCM

**Home of Property**

The forecourt has parking for two cars, while the gardens are mainly to the side of the property

# Detached house with decoration 'that is superb'



The large dining kitchen has a range of wall and base units and integrated appliances

**DESCRIBED by agents as beautifully presented and superbly decorated, this two-bedroom detached house in Lower Gornal is for sale priced at £164,950.**

glazing, gas central heating and gardens.

On the ground floor the guest cloakroom has a white suite of WC and wash hand basin while the lounge measuring 14ft 6in by 12ft 7in has a fireplace with inset pebble effect living flame gas fire and French door to the rear garden.

Integrated

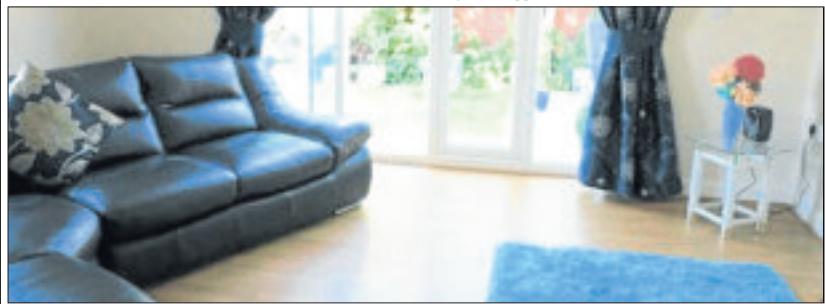
The dining kitchen, 15ft 4in by 10ft 3in, has a range of units with stainless steel circular bowl sink, round edge work surfaces and integrated appli-

ances including oven, hob, extractor, fridge freezer, washer dryer and dishwasher.

On the first floor are two bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite comprising panelled bath with shower and screen, WC and pedestal wash hand basin.

Outside the property stands behind a forecourt with parking for two cars while the garden is mainly to the side of the property with a patio and lawn.

Called Roden Boydell on 01902 881188 for more details or to view.



A French doors leads from the lounge to the rear garden

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# DIXONS

Estate Agents

Doing **More...**

Ross, Rowley Regis



EPC D

Offers Over £160,000

A modern detached bungalow with lounge, two bedrooms, gardens, driveway and garage. Halesowen.

Hawne Lane, Halesowen



EPC E

£160,000

A traditional semi detached house briefly comprising three bedrooms, garden and off road parking. Halesowen.

Windsor Road, Halesowen



EPC E

£160,000

A three bedroom house benefitting from extended lounge, separate dining room, conservatory, gardens and parking. Halesowen.

Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath



EPC F

Guide £150,000 - £200,000

This individual property offers a variety of accommodation comprising a shop on the front, garage and carport. Halesowen.

Two Gates Lane, Halesowen



EPC C

Offers Over £140,000

Semi detached house with four bedrooms, garden and off road parking. Viewing is recommended. Halesowen.

Wiltshire Drive, Halesowen



EPC D

£160,000

Modern semi detached property situated in a cul-de-sac. The property comprises kitchen, three bedrooms, front and rear gardens. Halesowen.

St. James Avenue, Rowley Regis



EPC C

£84,000

Modern semi detached property with accommodation comprising lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, front and rear gardens. Halesowen.

Victoria Road, Halesowen



EPC C

Offers Over £60,000

This is a well presented first floor apartment with accommodation comprising lounge, kitchen, bedroom and allocated parking. Halesowen.

Foxyards Road, Tipton



EPC D

Offers Over £160,000

A detached three bedroom house with garage, off road parking, front and rear gardens. Situated on a corner plot. Viewing is essential.

Crockett Street, Dudley



EPC D

£120,000

A well presented three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance porch, lounge/diner, kitchen, family bathroom, garage, front and rear gardens.

Denbigh Close, Dudley



EPC D

Offers Over £110,000

Semi detached two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, modern kitchen/diner, bathroom, gardens and driveway.

Stourbridge Road, Dudley



EPC F

£100,000

Terraced four bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs WC, family bathroom and rear garden.

Pebworth Grove, Dudley



Awaiting EPC

£100,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

School Drive, Bilston



New Price

EPC C

£80,000

A three bedroom semi detached property benefitting from two reception rooms, kitchen, upstairs bathroom and rear garden.

Thunderbolt Way, Tipton



EPC C

Offers Over £75,000

Modern second floor two bedroom apartment briefly comprising lounge/kitchen, bathroom, communal gardens and allocated parking spaces.

Peel Way, Tividale



EPC C

Offers Over £65,000

Ground floor two bedroom flat briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

# Motoring

Compiled by Motoring  
Editor Sharon Walters

## Vauxhall's convertible looks a winner

By Ian Donaldson

IT'S not hard to see where Vauxhall would like to be on the ladder of automotive desirability... on the rung below Audi, you'd guess.

Vauxhall's new, big four-seater Cascada convertible is the latest in a recent onslaught of new models, all aimed at giving the brand a more glossy feel for potential punters.

We've seen recent launches for the petrol/electric Ampera, medium-sized SUV Mokka and chic and small Adam.

The first will sell in tiny numbers, with the Adam finding tough opposition from Fiat and Mini and only the Mokka likely to make it high up the charts.

But you get the feeling outright sales are less important than making other road users take a second glance and ask 'what is that rather smart looking car over there?"

And now comes the Cascada, Spanish for waterfall (or the pop group representing Germany at the 2013 Eurovision Song Contest), which is predicted to sell only a couple of thousand here each year.

But you'll take notice every time one comes into view. It's a big car and it's got masses of smart street presence, with the hood up or



The Vauxhall Cascada is ready to roar into the convertible market



The Cascada oozes class with the roof down and the sun shining



Now here's a dashboard to die for

down (an action that takes a mere 17 seconds in either direction).

More look-at-me pulling power, for instance, than the smaller Audi A5 Convertible, which also costs nearly £8,000 more than the least expensive Cascada.

Now, that may not matter a jot to an Audi buyer, who would not even mention a Vauxhall in the same breath, but it sure matters to the seller of the Cascada, keen as moutarde to give the brand a bit of upmarket chic.

Cover over the badge and you'd never guess the car costs from a modest (in large convert-

ible terms) £23,995. Even under a watery English sky it looks terrific; utterly up to posing on the quayside at Monte Carlo among the inevitable Porches... and Audis. You'd never guess it's a stablemate for the humble, company car park favourite, the Insignia.

### Swathes

At least, not until you slipped inside, where you discover it now becomes an Insignia in all but name, with added swathes of nicely stitched leather to disguise thing a bit. That didn't stop the test car, a £26,095 version with the smallest engine available (1.4 litre petrol)

having the most comfortable driver's seat I've enjoyed in living memory, thanks to a myriad of adjustments, heating and handsome leather facings. Eat your heart out, Audi.

Giving the Cascada a fabric roof has saved valuable weight over the folding metal contraptions that briefly shone in this sector. It's good to look at, works up to 30mph and produces no more noise than the fixed covering you might find in an Insignia. It does compromise boot space, leaving a long, thin slot for luggage when it's folded away (all that fabric has got to go somewhere). The rear seats fold down to give

lots more room with the roof in place.

Losing the rigidity of a fixed roof means, despite extra body strengthening, the Cascada wobbles gently on bad road surfaces, but it's not going to be a problem for owners who won't mind the trade off if it means hours basking in top-down sunshine.

A 2.0 litre diesel (£25,495) is expected to be the biggest seller in a range that tops out at £29,080 for a pumped up version of the same engine. The 1.4 Elite version's modestly petrol unit was quiet and smooth but need a good prod to produce much action.

**Your essential guide to the world of motoring**

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12 Reg Proton £6995 or £42 pw	57 Reg 1.9 DCi Megane Cab £5995 or £36 pw	07 Reg Fiesta 1.4 TDCi £5495 or £33 pw
06 Reg Clio £3995 or £24 pw	06 Reg Peugeot 206 £3495 or £21 pw	07 Reg Picasso C4 HDI £5995 or £37 pw
52 Reg Smart Auto £2495 or £16 pw	55 Reg Astra Est £3495 or £21 pw	62 Reg Megane DCi £12495 or £59 pw

Finance Example - Cash Price £3995, Less Cash or Part Exchange Deposit £500 Amount Of Credit £3495, Total Amount Payable £543.60 48 Monthly Payments of £103.20 or 208 weekly payments of £23.82

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WIDOW Young hearted 70's, N/S, likes reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTM younger gentleman with similar interests. Stafford area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404177

SHARON medium built lovely, 33yrs, pale complexion, nice eyes, feminine, outgoing, confident, enjoys varied interests. WLTM all round nice guy for adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403325

KATIE, sensual curvy figure, well educated, attractive and very adventurous, seeks male for intimate evenings in. Can accommodate, no strings, fun only. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 325325

CAROL South African lonely heart 37yrs, looking for fun with mature gent 50plus, likes dining in/out, discretion assured/appreciated. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403337

WIDOW seeking similar aged male to share holidays and weekends out. Car owner preferred. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389795

JANE 48yrs West Midlands, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, looking for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403948

48YR old attractive female seeking fun maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403947

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807

KEELEY 18yr old slim broadminded blonde, blue eyes, enjoys most things in life, WLTM older guy for meets. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403581

JULIE gorgeous 40, loves the outdoors, theatre, WLTM energetic open-minded fun male up to 60s who like me is very loving and caring. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403571

32YR old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753

SENSUAL cuddly 32yr old professional looking for similar minded discreet male up to 40yrs for 1-2-1 fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404023

ELIZABETH 33, curly attractive blonde, likes walking, socialising, meals out, entertaining, WLTM well educated nice male 50-60's for nice times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403937

HI I'm Jayne very pretty blonde, stylish, fun, loves the 60's, fine wine/restaurants, seeks professional gent for mutual life enhancement. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403749

KERRY, student nurse, just 19yrs. Very naughty girl! Call to hear what I've got to say. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 228864

LISA 38yrs, tall slim attractive, broadminded, easygoing, loves cooking, homemaking, nice wine looking for very discreet solvent male 50-90yrs to pamper me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403733

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\*\*SMS Txt Chat. 'Fun on your mobile' 63222. Cost £1.50/msg sent. SMS Txt Chat 'TEXT FOR FUN' is a virtual chat service meaning that you will not be able to meet the people listed. This service is for fun & entertainment only. We reserve the right to contact individuals with occasional promotional invitations. Switchfire Ltd. To STOP text stop to 63222. Help: 0844 445 7707. Opt. Out: [www.SFire.co.uk](http://www.SFire.co.uk). DATA PROTECTION: Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd, SW4 7BX, 0844 800 1188. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. W/C 29 April 2013

## SEE PHOTOS OF MEMBERS

If an ad has a # next to it, then the advertiser has sent in their photo. Simply text: **WOLVDATE** (space) (advertiser box number) & send to **63223\***

**PLACE AN ADVERT**  
**0844 887 2293**

**REPLY TO MEMBERS**

**0906 500 3955**

(0906 cost £1.53p/m)

**COLLECT MESSAGES**

**0906 500 3957**

(0906 cost £1.53p/m)



## MEN TEXT FOR FUN!

\*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message. Help Desk: 0844 445 7707

I am a single girl lookin chat to men now **Text HANNA to 60109**

Hi there, sick of lonely nights. be nice to have someone to chat to, i can talk for england so lets get started lol **Text TESS to 60109**

I love all kinds of music, especially live music and I love talking to new ppl. **Text MICHAEL to 60109**

Help....Help.....can u hear me??Im up here on the shelf that need a hand to get down : -D **Text STACY to 60109**

I am looking to talk to someone who shares similar passions and interests, who is down to earth and knows what they want from life **Text SANDRA to 60109**

Hi all im down to earth but dont suffer fools. im fiery and head strong in looking to talk to like minded ppl **Text PAULA to 60109**

Life can be so beautiful.... so lets talk about it.. looking for men to chat to now. **Text RE-BECCA to 60109**

IN a nut shell, Im a normal chilled, easy going girl with good morals & a sense of humour. Family & friends are very important to me. Looking to chat now. **Text AMY29 to 60109**

HEY just looking for people to chat to really, message me if you fancy it :) **Text CENDRA to 60109**

If you want to know more about me all you have to do is ask! :) **Text LUCY28 to 60109**

I enjoy spendin time with my niece and nephew, and my family. am a big animal lover very easy going person with gsho. **Text CAROLINA to 60109**

I'm only looking for someone to talk to late at night when all my work is done.. Need to be able to talk all night :) lol **Text LOREEN to 60109**

I am an attractive and warm hearted girl who is always up for a good chat broaden my horizons. **Text BETHANY to 60109**

**WOMEN  
TEXT FOR FUN!**

\*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message. Help Desk: 0844 445 7707

I have many interests but derive pleasure from everyday things, whether it be a walk in the park or a coffee by the river. **Text BEN to 60109**

## CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Call our support team 0844 800 1188  
mondays 16-4, [support@media-lauk.co.uk](mailto:support@media-lauk.co.uk)

**GAY SINGLES**

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to meet or chat to other men, look no further. **TEXT: GAY247 to 60109**

**www.localgaydate.co.uk**

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892

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MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892

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Local company, full range of blinds  
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Fully guaranteed work  
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Every aspect in landscaping

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All work guaranteed Insurance work undertaken Over 15 years experience (Public liability covered)

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2

E-mail us at...  
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3

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Accredited  
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Hurst Green, Halesowen

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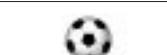
**GENTLEMAN, LATE 50'S**  
Seeking a lady between 40-60 for a long term relationship. I'm a very kind and trustworthy person, I live on my own and am self-employed, I'm very outgoing, I enjoy walking, going out for meals and going on holiday. It would be nice to have someone to share these things with. Genuine replies only please. Write Box No. P18509 (SS), Shropshire Newspapers Ltd, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV11ES



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**GENTLEMAN, LATE 50'S**  
Seeking a lady between 40-60 for a long term relationship. I'm a very kind and trustworthy person, I live on my own and am self-employed, I'm very outgoing, I enjoy walking, going out for meals and going on holiday. It would be nice to have someone to share these things with. Genuine replies only please. Write Box No. P18509 (SS), Shropshire Newspapers Ltd, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV11ES



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Parent Coaches/ Managers also needed.  
£2.50 per session.  
Kevin on 01902 674246.



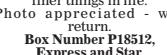
**GENTLEMAN**  
WLTM Gentleman 60 - 75 for friendship, fun and outings. Box Number P18523, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



**SLIM ATTRACTIVE GLAMOROUS LADY 37**  
Unattached, enjoys keeping fit, travelling, nights out and nights out. I would like to meet a genuine successful chivalrous gentleman aged 37-49 for possible long term relationship and to enjoy the finer things in life. Photo appreciated - will return.  
Box Number P18512, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



**LADY, 61**  
Would like to meet a gentleman of similar age, for friendship, possible relationship. Car driver preferred.  
Box Number P18520, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



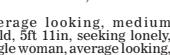
**STRAITS F.C.**  
Require Players age 13/14 for U15's next Season.  
Stourbridge Youth League.  
Training Wednesday nights.  
Call Steve on 07542 359020.



**MALE, 44**  
Average looking, medium build, 5ft 11in, seeking lonely, single woman, average looking, 35-46 with GSOC, N/S, no children, out and in.  
Box Number P18521, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



**market place**



**MALE 75**  
Solvent, local to Wolverhampton. Wishes to meet local lady for outings, holidays. Friendship to start.  
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Aerials from £64.99, Sky, multirooms, 10 yrs experience, free estimates, we will beat any written quote.  
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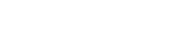
**WELL TM Lady of similar age for companionship.**  
Who enjoys Theatre, dining out and various other interests.  
Box Number P18511, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



**MALE 61**  
WLTM Lady of similar age for companionship.



**WEL TM Lady of similar age for companionship.**



**WEL TM Lady of similar age for companionship.**



<b

# classified

ULLSWATER number 5, 3 pole, tunnel tent, sleeps five and has detachable ground sheet. Only used once, £60. Tel: 01902 674746

ULLSWATER Water number tent, sleeps five and has detachable ground sheet. Only used once, £60. Tel: 01902 674746

## car boot sales

### AFTERNOON SATURDAY BOOTSALE

12 noon (sellers from 10am). B4176 Rabbit Run by Foley Pub, between Dudley & Telford. www.bestbootsales.com 07890 267041.

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### BEST WEDNESDAY BOOTSALE

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10am - 2pm B4176 Rabbit Run, by T.F.M. between Dudley & Telford, WV15 5LS. www.bestbootsales.com 07890 267041.

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ABI 4 BERTH Jubilee Supreme Courier. 94/95, excellent condition, has been used, extra included. £24,500. Tel: 07411 745448.

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Luxury, 2005, 4-berth, end dressing room, separate shower, sunroof, blow air heating, alloy wheel, removable carpets, extras, excellent condition. £5,300. Tel: 07884 074389.

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2008, Fiat Ducato 2.3 Turbo Diesel, 16,500 miles. Fixed double bed, large garage beneath. Fitted autoclutch, status and skid arms, road alarm, CD player, subwoofer, Tax and MoT July 31, 2013. Immaculate condition, no pets or smokers, must sell through illness.

£2,750,000.

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2000, 18ft, 2-berth, end bathroom, flyscreens / blinds, blow air central heating, separate shower room, swivel cassette toilet, hot / cold water, new motor mover, hardly used.

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ELDDIS SCEPTOR 5 BERTH, TOURING CARAVAN

2002, full awning, plus roof awning, water and waste master carriers. Many extras. Immaculate. Must be seen to appreciate.

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1ST 2C WILL BUY

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STATIC CARAVAN ABI Mistralo, 30' x 12ft, 2 bedrooms, 2 berths, with decking, very good condition, small site. Welshpool, site fees paid for 2013 season, £6,500. Tel: 01902 454959.

STATIC CARAVAN 35ft x 12ft, excellent condition, quiet site in Mid Wales, lovely views, large corner plot with 2 sheds, 2 fishing pools, fees paid for 2013. £9,000. Tel: 01562 825825 / 07714 771740.

STERLING ECCLES CORAL 5-berth, 2000, 21ft, double end bedroom, flyscreens / blinds, blow air central heating, cassette toilet, shower, full awning, leisure battery, hot / cold water, mains lead, immaculate condition inside and out, one owner.

£3,950

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

ADORING HOME required for 4yr old Ragdoll Cat, suite retired lady, no children, no pets, £5,045. Tel: 07436 002565.

BLACK LABRADOR PUPPY, seven months old, fully vaccinated. £250. Tel: 07875 387887.

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Charlie is a delightful Yorkshire Terrier, around 9 years old. He has a wonderful temperament and is quite a little character. Charlie's new owner will be someone very special, as Charlie has a slight heart murmur and his medication will cost around £25 a month. This lovely little lad will repay his owner with lots of love and if you think he is the one for you please call 01902 676559 after 4pm.

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IMMACULATE CARAVAN

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**VAUXHALL TIGRA** Sport, 1.4, Cab coupe, black, FSH, 49k, T&T, excellent throughout, £4,000.ono. 07743 492393. Due to sell.

**VW FOX** 1.2 5dr, 40,000 miles, full MOT, tax August, excellent condition, £4,500. 01922 400645 or 0713 535809.

**VW GOLF 1.9 TDI SE** 2002, 76k, FSH, silver, 5dr, lady owned, 6 months MOT & 6 months tax, £2,500.ono. 07752 351295.

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**BMW 316** Compact, silver, s reg, nine months MOT, very good condition inside and out, drives beautifully. £695. 01902 448195.

**BMW 316i SE** 51 reg, black, MOT tax, 104k, silver, alloys, very good condition, £1,350. 07743 337079 or 0121 5315163.

**CITROEN C4 1.6 SX** 2002, 60k, black, 5dr, silver, MOT, radio/CD, A/C, good condition, MOT, tax Oct 2013, £900. 07957 144929.

**CITROEN SAXO FURIO**, 2003, 1.4, 80k miles, fsh, tax Sept, MOT Feb, metallic blue, one owner, sunroof, CD, excellent original condition, £1,050. 07957 144929.

**FATI PANDA 1.2 DYNAMIC** 2005, five door hatchback, full MOT, lovely car, any trial, £1,095 o.n.o. 078747 43500.

**FATI PANDA 1.2 1.2C** 2003, blue, long MOT and tax. Good condition, Bargain! £995. 07822 495317.

**FORD FIESTA GHIA X** 1.4, 1997, 80k miles, black, silver, sunroof, alloys, 12 months MOT, vgc. £375. 01902 845395.

**FORD FOCUS 2.0 Ghia X** reg, 100k miles, 5dr, T270, MOT, Jan 2014, £550. 07921 845413.

**FORD FOCUS LX** 1.6, 2001, 11 months MOT, 2 months tax, good condition, genuine reason for sale, £1,395. 01902 662456.

**FORD FOCUS LX** 1.6, 2000, black, 5dr, hatchback, 2000, black, air con, long MOT, very clean. £750. 07773 996403.

**FORD KA DESIGN** 2005, 71,500 miles, black, electric windows, MOT, central locking, tax, CD, petrol, only 2 owners from new. £1,300. 07870 458082.

**FORD KA** 1999, reg 61k, mauve tax, MOT, very reliable, good condition, £545. 07852 752469.

**FORD MONDEO 1.8 LX** 2013, blue, 5dr, tax September 2013, MOT Mar 2014, £695. 07977 084329.

**MERCEDES BENZ E220** 1994, gold, abs, electric windows, MOT, auto, power steering, petrol, estate, £500. 01902 656977.

**MERCEDES E230 ELEGANCE** tax and MOT, 1996, private plate, £1,050. 01902 656977.

**NISSAN ALMERA** 51 plate, 40,000 miles, silver, electric windows, air bag, air con, MOT until December, tax until June, central locking, pas, 1.5L petrol manual, upgraded front speakers and Sony MP3 CD player. £600. 0902 701080.

**NISSAN X-TRAIL** 2006, 7 seater, tax, MOT, tax and MOT's till August, £475. 07870 480964.

**PEUGEOT 106** Independence, 2001, silver, MOT, 7 months tax, petro, 5dr, tax, £200. 07807 543192.

**PEUGEOT 106** X reg 2001, 1.1, 10 months MOT, tax till end of August, blue. £550.

**PEUGEOT 307** 7 seater diesel Estate, 04 reg, tax Aug, MOT Sept, 94k, reliable, £2,150. 07822 495317.

**RENAULT EXPRESSION** 1.2, 2002, 65,000 miles, blue, e/w, long MOT, s reg, sunroof, MOT, stereo, £1,050. 01902 653099.

**RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC** 1.6, 2000, 100k miles, black, taxed, 71k miles, SH, excellent condition. £750. 07539 651491.

**RENAULT SCENIC 2** 2002, long MOT, 100k miles, new belt and history, good condition, bargain! £995. 07822 495317.

**ROVER 25** 1600iS, 2000, 33,000 miles, white, fsh, alarm, MOT and tax, 5dr, 16" alloys, petrol, £650. 01902 883384.

**ROVER 400SLI** Manual, 1994, L reg, 60,000 miles, 1 retired owner, s reg, new MOT and tax, new tyres, s/w, stereo, real classic. £750. 01902 833165.

**ROVER CITY** 2004, black, 4 door, 10 months MOT, 53,000 miles, alloys, excellent condition. £995. 0791 010321.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA** 1.6 5dr, Hatch reg, 97k miles, MOT, 12 months, 2001. 07730 389925. Genuine mileage.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA**, 2002, SXi 1.8, 74,000 miles, 11 months MOT, taxed and serviced, good condition, £1,200. 07835 125061.

**VAUXHALL CORSA** Elegance, 1.2, 52k miles, black, MOT and MoT, 61,000 miles, CL, EW, EM, £1,450. 07974 349970.

**VAUXHALL CORSA SXI** 2002, green, clean and tidy, new timing chain, needed, 89k, quick sale, £600. 07592 330314.

**VAUXHALL GOLF 2.0 GTI** 2001, immaculate silver paintwork, new clutch, a/c, long MOT/tax, 3 door, hatch, CD, alloys, drives superb. £975. 0no. Telephone 07923 470270.

## commercial vehicles

**MERCEDES SPRINTER** 311 LWB, 05 reg, 6 months tax and MoT. £2,700. 07801 835294.

**RENAULT TRAFFIC** Combi Van, 6 seater, 90k miles, good condition, 33 reg, MOT tax, 93k, light use only. £3,750. 01384 279468.

**VAUXHALL COMBO VAN** 07 Reg, good condition, 1.7 diesel, 12 months MOT, £3,250. 07891 895694.

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## SPORT

# Pearson's pride at final success

## Dudley Heathens

HEATHENS chairman Nigel Pearson has declared his pride at the success of the British Under-21 final held at Monmore Green.

The former Cradley club - who are in early talks with a land owner over a possible site for their own track - hosted the event at Monmore for the second consecutive year in front of a bumper crowd as Coventry new-boy Robert Branford took victory.

"We were very proud and privileged to be hosting the British Under-21 final for the second consecutive year," said Pearson.

"I'm not giving any secrets away when I say the crowd was up on last year, which we were very pleased about."

"Straight after the meeting I was on the phone to my colleagues and I was delighted to hear about the

success of the meeting. Congratulations to Robert Branford. I'm delighted he has been able to secure a place in the National League, albeit at the expense of Oliver Greenwood, who I wish all the best for a speedy recovery."

"Thanks to all the supporters who turned out and proved once again on a national basis that Dudley is such a well-supported club."

"Yet again it just proves what a success it is staging meetings at Wolverhampton with Chris Van Straaten and all his track staff."

"From Dudley Heathens point of view we couldn't do any of this

without Wolverhampton and their track staff, so a big thanks to them once again for all their work."

Dudley's Ashley Morris is fourth and Branford's win earned him a quick return to Monmore.

Dudley booked him to guest against Mildenhall in the National Shield two nights ago with skipper Morris in action for Premier League Workington at Scunthorpe. Morris scored paid eight in an exciting draw at the Eddie Wright Raceway.

And back at Monmore, the Heathens took the silverware, beating the Fen Tigers 51-39 for an aggregate victory of 96-80.

# League title caps a perfect season

OLD HALESONIANS RFC were celebrating again as their second XV clinched the league title.

Just a week after the club's first team secured the Midlands One West crown and promotion, the seconds won the North Midlands Reserve League thanks to a 19-15 victory at title rivals Sutton Coldfield.

That meant Hales finished the campaign with a perfect league record of 16 wins from 16 games.

by Matt Maher

## European tour joy for Jones

BRIERLEY HILL darter Mark Jones will be a part of the PDC's European Tour in Germany later this month after winning his spot in a qualifier.

He won two games at the Robin Park Centre in Wigan on Friday.

Now he goes forward to play in the tournament at the Maritim Hotel, Dusseldorf on May 17.

The 43-year-old defeated Josh Payne in the 10th leg to claim a 6-4 victory and then used just eight legs to see off Ian Walters 6-2.

Little Mon' moved on to the weekend's UK Open qualifiers at the same venue on Saturday.

He received a bye to the second round.

But he was second best to world No.12 Gary Anderson, losing 6-1.

Jones then went down 6-3 to Jerry Hendriks at the same stage on Sunday.

However, Jones climbed a place in the world rankings and stands 61st in the PDC Order of Merit.

The visitors started superbly and dominated possession in the early stages, their forward pressure paying off when scrum-half Greg Smith took the ball from a ruck close to Sutton's line and danced over for a try. Tom Harris slotted over the conversion.

The hosts hit back strongly and after some uncompromising forward play they scored an unconverted try before grabbing a 12-7 half-time lead when Sutton's centre stole the ball in a tackle and raced 60 metres to score.

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## George fall just short of slaying the Greville

### The Greville 222

THE GEORGE fell just five shots short of what would have been a tremendous bowls victory at the Solihull home of the Warwick and Worcester Premier Division One champions.

The home side were seven shots up after the first four, The George having wins from Alan Belcher (21-18) and Pete Davenport (21-17).

A similar pattern in the middle four saw the Warley visitors have another two winners in Marc Wilson (21-18) Elliot McGuinness (21-20), but The Greville increased their lead to 15 shots.

The George hit back strongly in the back four, captain Phil Clinton's 21-6 card backed by wins for Steve Dicken (21-18) and Steve Darling (21-20) only to fall just short.

### The George 243 Woodfield 177

The seconds had a comfortable 66-shot home win against Wolverhampton side Woodfield in the South Staffs Premier.

The George built up a 19-shot lead after the first four thanks to wins from Stuart Medding (21-5) and Chris Simpson (21-13).

Middle four wins from Keith Walton (21-16) and Mick McGuinness (21-20) helped eke out the advantage by a further three shots.

Big wins from Mark Atkins (21-4), Martin McGuinness (21-5) and Adrian Ford (21-9) took The George to their final victory margin.

### The George 244

### British Oak 148

The thirds opened their Warwick and Worcester Alliance Division Three campaign in style with a 96-shot victory.

They were never troubled, losing only once, and had 21-6 cards from both John Deakin and Steve Wyton.

## Darter Dicken's weekend woe

WEDNESBURY'S Matthew Dicken won one game in last weekend's PDC tournaments – the European Tour and the UK Open qualifiers.

The PDC youth tour regular hopes of making the next European event in Germany ended in defeat to Paul Amos at the Robin Park Centre, Wigan, on Friday. The 20-year-old lost in Saturday's qualifier to Barrie Bates. In Sunday's qualifier he beat Lee Moffat before losing to Richie Howson.



Boss Steve Clarke pulls the strings



Shane Long harasses Saints' Nathaniel Clyne



Referee Robert Madley brings Marc-Antoine Fortune's afternoon to an early conclusion

## Six of the best for a place in last four

### Halas Hawks

#### Boys League

#### Woodford East U9 0

#### Halas Hawks U9 North 6

HALAS booked their place in the Merit semi-finals with a six-goal victory.

They scored in the first minute through Callum Deeming after a long throw by James Thacker.

Alex Tierney fired home shortly after, and Deeming completed a first-half hat-trick with two goals just before the interval.

Kewford were stronger in the second half and created several promising moves, but the Halas defenders Owen Jinks, Thomas Galligan and Aidan Jackson stood firm with key tackles.

Halas added further goals from Alex Tierney and Ben Pedley.

### Brierley Hill Bullets U14 West 1

#### Halas Hawks U14 4

Halas were on top from the start, playing some good football and the pressure told when Shane Billingham put them ahead.

Halas continued to push and Billingham added a second midway through the half.

An error saw Brierley Hill gifted a goal, but within minutes Cain Brissett extended Halas' lead just before the break.

The second half saw Halas continue to press but again fail to convert their chances until Cameron Milne added their fourth from long range to finish the scoring and seal the points.

Callum Hudson did a fine job as stand-in goalkeeper.

#### Black Country Colts U15 2

#### Halas Hawks U15 6

Despite going a goal down at Black Country Colts, the Under-15s scored three times during the first half through Josh Mason, Dominic Hipkiss and Adam Higginsson.

The second half saw Hipkiss complete his hat-trick and the match was completed by a Charlie Bagley goal. Dan Jennings was outstanding in defence.

#### Oldswinford U16 0

#### Halas Hawks U16 4

Halas under-16s beat Oldswinford 4-0 to move within two points of the league leaders, with four matches in hand.

However, a lot of twists and turns will undoubtedly follow before the league title is decided.

Hawks' goals came from Josh March, who bagged two, Mitchell Tomlinson and Jake Waller.

# Trip to the coast is such a perfect day

### Southampton 0 Albion 3

#### SUPER scoreline. Fabulous timing. Perfect day.

Steve Clarke continues to set Albion's targets higher and higher, writes Steve Madeley.

Yet on Saturday evening, it was hard to believe life as a Baggies fan could get much better than this.

With an impeccable sense of occasion, the swashbuckling Albion of autumn made a long-awaited reappearance to ensure a record-breaking, history-making afternoon on the south coast.

It was a fine performance with which to reward Baggies record books.

But the fact that more than 3,000 travelling fans were present to witness their team's return to form, made the day so much more special. And of course, events at Molineux helped, too.

#### Trekked

The travelling Albion fans mocked their neighbours mercilessly as they watched their own side tear apart an in-form Saints side with a performance reminiscent of those heady days at the start of the season when Clarke's men were third in the table and dreaming of Europe.

Because the striped army that trekked to Hampshire, it was a dream cocktail of events that made their day more memorable than they dared to imagine when they departed the West Midlands early on Saturday morning.

Granted, it could have been even better. There were collective groans when Tottenham equalised at Wigan to take a little of the heat off Villa in the Premier League relegation battle.

There was a modicum of frustration as Romelu Lukaku missed a handful of good chances to ensure Albion's own game remained in the balance much longer than it should have. And Marc-Antoine Fortune's stupid sending off – one of three on the day –



Romelu Lukaku slots the ball home to score the Baggies' second goal at Southampton



Lukaku celebrates as Albion romp home

marred the success just a little. But there were very few travelling fans whose glasses were half-empty come 5pm on Saturday.

Because, as away trips go, this one was pretty flawless for the long-distance supporters, 2,000 of whom had gone to St Mary's free of charge thanks to the Baggies' annual coaches offer.

And statistically, it was a red-letter day for their club, too. The records have been on the cards for weeks so it was little surprise when they eventually arrived.

But their predictability does not make them any less impressive for Clarke and Co.

A club-record 14th Premier League victory in a season ensured Albion's highest ever points total since the top flight was rebranded, and all with four matches to spare. It made sure, too, that they remained six points clear of the chasing pack in eighth place and on course to clinch the best-of-the-

rest spot behind the division's established big names. And it gave Albion their first win at Southampton since a 2-0 success in 1969.

Best of all, they did it all with a style and swagger that has often been missing since Christmas as they have edged their way towards notable milestones after such a stunning start to the campaign.

With Clarke's bold 4-3-3 selection pinning the back the Saints, the Baggies signalled their intentions from the opening moments and they were ahead on six minutes as Gareth McAuley and Lukaku helped on a Graham Dorrans corner and Fortune forced the ball over the line.

The hosts, so impressive under Mauricio Pochettino, were never allowed to respond as the visitors opened them up at will.

Lukaku had a trio of fine chances before half-time but was denied a goal by a combination of tame finishing and smart goalkeeping

from Artur Boruc. The Saints' only response was a firm shot from Nathaniel Clyne which drew a good save from Ben Foster, with Clarke's men maintaining their dominance in second half packed full with incident.

Lukaku made it 2-0 from a fine ball from Fortune, who then tarnished an excellent day's work with a needless dismissal for reacting to an elbow by Gaston Ramirez on Shane Long that had already earned the Uruguayan his marching orders.

But even at 10 versus 10, the Baggies stayed on top. And Long completed the scoring late on when he raced onto a clever Lukaku pass and drilled a low effort through the legs of Boruc.

The hordes of visiting fans shared a moment of mutual appreciation with their side at the final whistle as all reflected on a day that will stand out, even from a season of so many magical memories.

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# SPORT

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Clarke:  
I want  
Villa to  
stay up



Winner Jordanne Whiley

ALBION boss Steve Clarke wants Villa to win their survival battle – and hinted he would like Wolves back in the Premier League.

The Baggies are certain to end this season as top dogs in the West Midlands for the second year in succession as Villa fight for Premier League safety and Wolves face probable relegation to League One.

But Clarke, who has led Albion to eighth in the top flight with four games remaining, insisted local competition is important to help the Baggies keep their eye on the ball.

The fans in blue and white have revelled in their status at the head of the region, but Clarke took the long view when he said: "I would like to see the Midlands stronger."

"It's important that you have good competition from the clubs around you."

"If you have that competition and it's healthy around the area and it's better for the Midlands that they have more successful teams, I would miss Villa."

"It's important that they finish the season strongly. It's important to have your rivals breathing down your neck. We can see how much it means to the supporters."

"But you want to be the top dogs because you've beaten your nearest rivals or you've finished higher than them in the same league. That's important."

Meanwhile, Gareth McAuley has done the double at the end of season awards ceremony.

McAuley was crowned both supporters' and players' player of the season on Sunday.

## Extra-time heartbreak

Droitwich Spa U17 Girls 3  
Halas Hawks U17 Girls 2  
(aet, full-time 2-2)

HALAS suffered an extra-time defeat in the Stourbridge League Cup final.

They began well and went one up within a few minutes. A goalkeeping error saw the ball finish at the feet of Kate Drew who slotted it away.

The remainder of the half was all Halas, but Droitwich came into the game after the break.

Halas got a second through player of the match Gemma Stokes. But Spa levelled to take the game to extra-time and then bagged the winner.

More Halas – Page 39

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## Top of the pile

Yeltz Ladies maintain  
their unbeaten run

**Page 38**



## Coasting

Seaside stroll  
for the Baggies

**Page 39**



e-mail: [chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk)

Squads  
finish in  
top three

HALESOWEN Swimming Club's A and B squads both made the top three in the Worcester Winter League finals at Droitwich.

Halesowen performed solidly in the A final and were in contention for much of the gala before securing a strong third place overall.

In the B final earlier, Halesowen performed well and also ended in third place.

In the A team, double winners were Kate Morrice in the freestyle and butterfly and Josh Bradley in the breaststroke and butterfly.

Other individual winners were Michael Edmonds (backstroke), Max Rollason (breaststroke) and Mark Laing (freestyle). The unbeatable open relay team won both medley and freestyle events with a team of Chloe Finch, Lilian Parsons, Chloe Robbins, Rebecca Choo and Zach Collins.

In the B team, individual event winners were Sophie Page (freestyle), Luke Morris (butterfly) and Jacob Darby (breaststroke).

The B team also won both relays with the team of Sian Carey, Shannon O'Brien, Alison Peacock and Jack Slattery.

A final: Redditch A 190pts, Stourbridge A 176, Halesowen A 164, Worcester 136, Oldbury 101, Stourbridge B 71.

B final: Droitwich 170pts, Redditch B 142, Halesowen B 139, Worcester B 133, Perry Beeches & SSS 127, Haden Hill 91.

## Harris lands the Cardiff wild card

BIRMINGHAM Speedway star Chris Harris has been handed the wild card entry to the British Grand Prix at Cardiff on June 1.

Harris famously won the GP at the Millennium Stadium in 2007 with a last-lap pass.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, May 2, 2013.

## Joyous Whiley nets emotional double

HALESOWEN'S Jordanne Whiley has won an emotional title double.

Whiley won both the women's singles and doubles at the Israel Open at Tel Aviv – the venue where she first hit a tennis ball 18 years ago at the age of three.

Whiley claimed the third ITF 2 title of her career and her 12th women's singles title in total after justifying top seeding to see off French third seed Christine Schoenn 6-1, 6-3.

It was Whiley's third win over Schoenn in a singles final this year,

### Wheelchair tennis

with the British No.2 having also beaten the Frenchwoman to win Britain's first two world ranking tournaments of the season, the North-West Challenge in Preston and the North-East Wheelchair Tennis Tournament in Sunderland.

The London 2012 women's doubles bronze medalist also celebrated winning the doubles title in Tel Aviv, in her first tournament partnering young Turkish player

Busra Un. The second seeds upset top-ranked Bianca Osterer of Germany and Schoenn in a thrilling final, prevailing 6-7 (5-7), 6-3, 10-5 after a deciding match tie-break.

Whiley's victories come 18 years after she first hit tennis balls from her wheelchair as a three-year-old at the 1995 Israel Open. She was there with her father, Keith, who was playing in the tournament. Both were born with the bone condition osteogenesis imperfecta.

"This is a special week for me and I'm delighted to have won both titles," said Whiley, who reached the singles final for the loss of just two games in two matches.

"This is where I first played wheelchair tennis with my dad in between his matches in 1995."

"The tournament even gave me my own award for being the youngest wheelchair tennis player they had seen."

"Who'd have thought I would come back here 18 years later as a Paralympic medalist and win both the singles and doubles titles?"

# WARMER KEEPS UP PROMOTION HEAT

HALESOWEN'S battle for promotion from Evo-Stik Division One South is going right down to the wire.

The Yeltz beat Carlton Town at the weekend to set up a dramatic finale when they host Lincoln United on Saturday.

They are one of four clubs all scrapping for the division's final two play-off places. Stamford, Chasetown and Sutton Coldfield are all two points ahead of the Yeltz, and all have a markedly superior goal difference.

To extend their campaign, Halesowen will need to beat Lincoln and hope that two of their three rivals both lose.

Stamford are at Micklem Sports; Sutton Coldfield host Leek Town and Chasetown are away to Coalville Town.

**Halesowen Town 2 Carlton Town 1**

Two stunning first-half goals kept Halesowen's promotion dreams alive in a four-way tussle for the final two Division One South play-off places.

The Yeltz started brightly and forced five corners in the first 20 minutes with Tom Warmer's eighth-minute free-kick saved by Jordan Felli.

Gavin Winsper then nodded just wide and another Warmer drive was blocked.

The pressure finally paid off when impressive Mitchell Bottfield handed Halesowen a well-deserved 25th-minute lead with a delightful strike after he took the ball down, controlled and smashed home from 22 yards.

However, the goal brought the Millers to life.

Former Yeltz player Ruben Wiggins-Thomas exposed the home defence to equalise just four minutes later with a free header from Alex Troke's deep free-kick. Wiggins-Thomas lobbed

### Halesowen Town

over the bar in a good Carlton spell and home goalkeeper Paul Evans produced a fine fingertip save from Luke Smithson before turning Julian Toplis' low header around the post.

But the lively Tom Warmer placed a superb Halesowen winner into the far top corner from a wide angle in the final minute of the first half after Aaron Griffiths slid the ball down the left side of the penalty area.

However, a defensive lapse almost proved devastatingly costly again when Carlton's Lee McAnulty struck the post seconds before half-time.

The second half provided few chances on goal after Brendan Kelly slammed a 50th-minute free-kick straight into the Carlton defensive wall.

But Halesowen had already done enough to keep the season bubbling until the final day.

Halesowen Town: Evans; Winsper, Meacham, Bottfield (Baker 90), Parker, Kelly, Griffiths (Tonks 73), Barnfield (c), Warmer, Haseley, Gueyes. Subs not used: Hill, Wadsworth, Flower.

Carlton Town: Felli, Nightingale, Fletcher, Troke (Darby 75), McAnulty, Henry (Whitethurst, HT), Thornton, Thomas, Toplis, Wiggins-Thomas (c), Smithson. Sub not used: Clarke.

Referee: Andrew Fox.

Attendance: 274.

## Young hockey sides make an impact at festival



Members of Old Halesonian Hockey Club's under-11 squad who won their competition at the Droitwich Festival

YOUNG players from the Old Halesonian club shone at the Droitwich Hockey Festival.

The under-11 and under-13 squads had both enjoyed good seasons and were hoping to make an impact at

Droitwich. The under-11s emerged victorious in their competition while the under-13s finished runners-up.

It was the first Worcestershire clubs tournament victory for the under-11s squad.

The performances will have put both teams in good heart for the forthcoming Badgers Festival.

It will be hosted by Old Halesonians at Windsor High School on Saturday, May 11.